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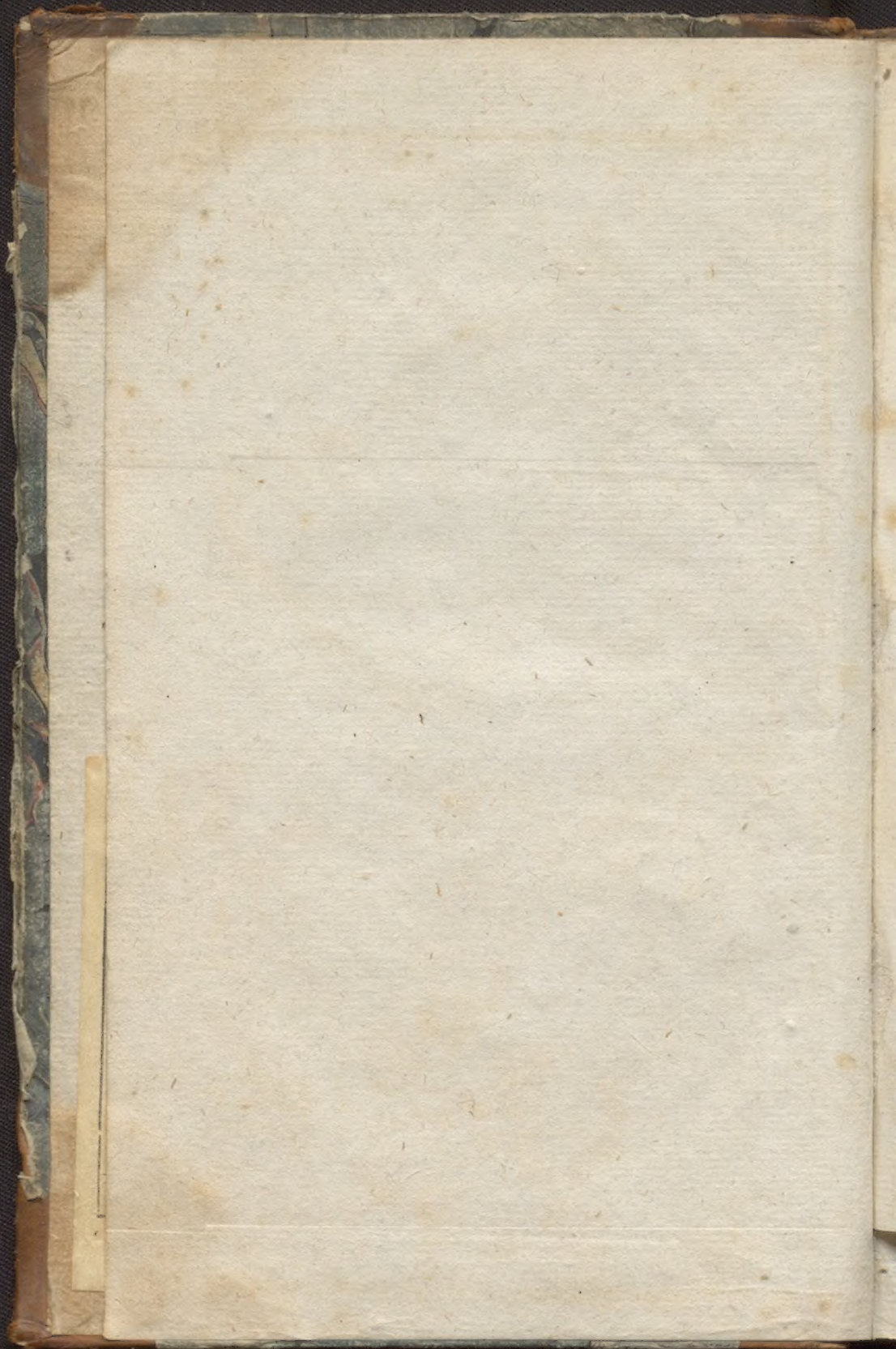
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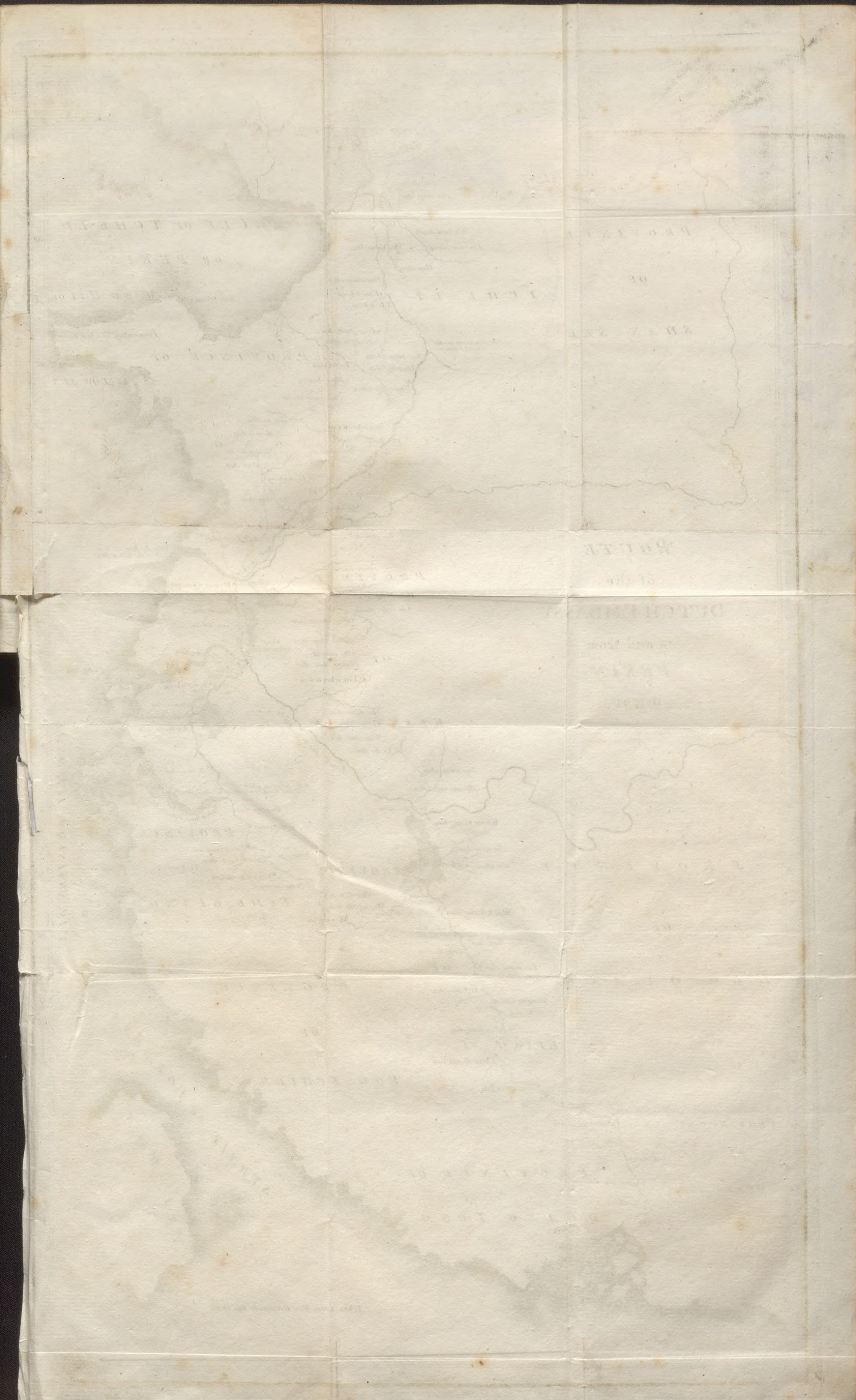
Vol. 1

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A N
AUTHENTIC ACCOUNT
OF THE
E M B A S S Y
OF THE
DUTCH EAST-INDIA COMPANY,
TO THE
COURT OF THE EMPEROR OF CHINA,

In the Years 1794 and 1795;
(SUBSEQUENT TO THAT OF THE EARL OF MACARTNEY.)

CONTAINING A DESCRIPTION OF
SEVERAL PARTS OF THE CHINESE EMPIRE,

UNKNOWN TO
E U R O P E A N S;

TAKEN FROM THE JOURNAL OF.

ANDRÉ EVERARD VAN BRAAM,

CHIEF OF THE DIRECTION OF THAT COMPANY, AND
SECOND IN THE EMBASSY.

TRANSLATED FROM THE ORIGINAL OF
M. L. E. MOREAU DE SAINT-MERT.

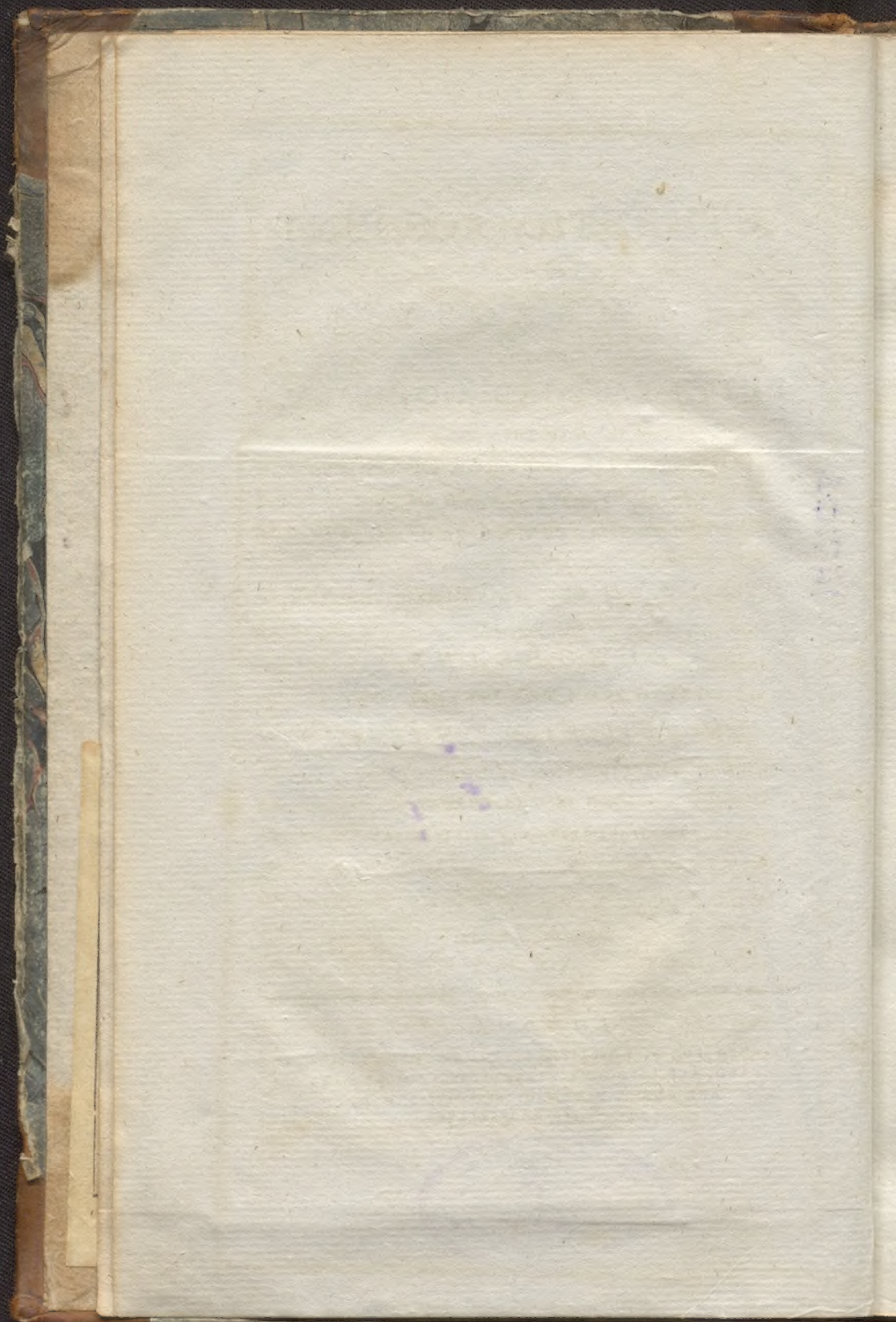
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VOL. I.

L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR R. PHILLIPS, NO. 71, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-
YARD, AND SOLD BY J. DEBRET, PICCADILLY; LEE
AND HURST, PATERNOSTER-ROW; AND BY
ALL OTHER BOOKSELLERS.





ADVERTISEMENT
OF THE ENGLISH PUBLISHER.

MR. PHILLIPS, who presents to the British Public this interesting Journey of the Dutch Embassy to the Court of the Emperor of China, conceives he is making an acceptable and valuable addition to the existing stock of knowledge relative to an Empire, the great extent, population, and antiquity of which render it an almost exhaustless subject of information and curiosity.

Respecting the views of the Embassy, and the value and originality of the materials of which the work consists, he has nothing to add to the able and perspicuous Preface of the French Editor, nor shall he in any way presume to anticipate the opinion or approbation of the English Reader.

With respect to the Translation, he will venture without hesitation to affirm, that it is faithfully performed. It is the work of a Gentleman of approved talents, whom a long residence in France has rendered incapable of the blunders that almost always deform books translated from the French tongue into ours. The advantage of receiving a copy of the original long before any other was imported, enabled him also to execute his task at his leisure, and to finish it with a more than usual degree of accuracy. The Publisher

therefore hopes, that when the time shall come of comparing this Translation with any other, it will be found to have a still greater precedency in merit than in the date of its appearance.

The only difference between this Edition and the Original Work consists in the placing of the Glossary in the First instead of the Second Volume. As nearly the whole of the words requiring explanation occur in the First Volume, this arrangement is judged to be more convenient to the Reader, especially to Subscribers to Libraries, and Members of Book Societies, in which the volumes generally circulate separately. This dictionary of terms is indeed one of the most valuable parts of the work, abounding in new and curious observations relative to the policy, the manners, and the language of the Chinese.

Among other exertions to render his Edition worthy of the public patronage, Mr. Phillips has taken much pains to procure a CORRECT CHART OF THE ROUTE; an appendage which the Reader will find to be indispensable, and without which the narrative would be wholly unintelligible. By making this important addition, he conceives that he has considerably increased the value of the work, and given his Edition an almost exclusive claim to the favour of the Public.

No. 71, St. Paul's Church Yard.
Oct. 20, 1793.

DEDICATION.

TO

HIS EXCELLENCY

GEORGE WASHINGTON,

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA.

SIR,

TRAVELS among the most ancient people which now inhabits this globe, and which owes its long existence to the system that makes its Chief the Father of the National Family, cannot appear under better auspices than those of the Great Man who was elected, by the universal suffrage of a new nation, to preside at the conquest of liberty, and in the establishment of a government in which every thing bespeaks the love of the First Magistrate for the people.

Permit me then to address the homage of my veneration to the virtues which in your Excellency afford so striking a resemblance between Asia and America. I cannot shew myself more worthy of the title of Citizen of the United States, which is become my adoptive Country, than by paying a just tribute to the Chief, whose principles and sentiments are calculated to procure them a duration equal to that of the Chinese Empire.

I am, with respect,

SIR,

Your Excellency's

Most humble,

And most obedient Servant,

A. E. VAN-BRAAM HOUCKGEEST.

ADVERTISEMENT

OF

THE EDITOR.

THE more distant the Regions which the Traveller describes, the more they differ in their moral and physical nature from the nations for whose instruction and gratification he destines his observations, the more important is it to the reader to know in what degree his confidence is due to the man who speaks to him of what is passing in remote countries, and almost at the other end of the world.

It is particularly in respect to China that the Fear of receiving the productions of an imagination more or less fertile for a true recital is easily awakened. That immense Empire is so little known; the prejudices of its inhabitants, or rather the wisdom of its government, has thrown so many obstacles in the way of those Europeans who might feel a desire to penetrate into the country in order to satisfy their curiosity and to examine what imperfect and hasty sketches have given them a faint idea of, that if it is easy to give imaginary

details for certain facts, it is at the same time difficult to secure a true relation, from the existing distrust, which puts the Reader upon his guard against the Narrator.

Accordingly, to expect always extraordinary things from a Traveller who speaks of China, and to doubt his veracity merely because he relates things which seem extraordinary—is the disposition of mind of those, who read any thing written concerning that astonishing country.

It is to shew the well-informed reader what degree of confidence he may place in the Travels now submitted to his inspection, that the Editor has thought it advisable to give him some idea of the character of the person who presents them to the public.

M. André Everard Van-Braam Houckgeest, born in 1739, in the province of Utrecht, in Holland, first served his country in the Dutch navy, in which two of his brothers, still alive, have more than once displayed great talents, and have both obtained the rank of Admiral, as a just reward for their services.

Determined by circumstances, which a state whose peculiar characteristic it is to be commercial, often affords, M. Van-Braam quitted the navy in 1758, and went to China, in quality of Supercargo of the Dutch East-India Company. He resided at Macao and Canton till 1773, except during two very short voyages to Europe.

Returning

Returning to his native land after an effective residence of eight years in a country where in that length of time he could not fail to acquire great information, M. Van-Braam settled in Guelderland, and remained there till 1783.

At the last-mentioned epoch the Independence of America had just been solemnly acknowledged by the powers of the old world. This event, which re-echoed throughout Europe, and awakened ideas almost as new as itself, inspired M. Van-Braam with the desire of inhabiting a country which had been represented to him in the most enthusiastic terms.

Of all the United States he gave the preference to South Carolina; and in 1783 became a merchant, and a cultivator of rice in that State. He was even naturalized as a citizen of the United States in 1784; and was living there in peace and happiness, when one of those dreadful fatalities of which the climate of that province affords but too many examples, deprived him, in the course of a single month, of four of his children.

This loss, for which a paternal heart has never been able to console itself, together with that of his fortune occasioned by a false friend, were the motives that induced M. Van-Braam to listen to the propositions transmitted to him by one of his brothers in the name of the Dutch East-India Company, who wished him to undertake
the

the management of their affairs at Canton, in quality of Chief of the Factory.

This new mark of confidence shewn him by his primitive country, and his desire to turn his eyes from a quarter of the globe in which his two only sons and two of his daughters had found an untimely grave, determined M. Van Braam to accept what was offered him. He returned to Holland, and set off immediately after for Canton.

A knowledge of several countries, and a consequent habit of observing their opposite characters, inspired M. Van-Braam with a desire of more attentively examining all that he was allowed to see of China. With this desire was combined that rational curiosity which seeks to penetrate into mysteries under which it imagines useful truths to lie concealed; and, lastly, that sentiment so natural to a European, of wishing to acquire further knowledge of a nation of which the little already known furnishes matter of so much well-founded astonishment.

As soon as this project was conceived, M. Van-Braam made it one of his principal concerns. Industrious both by habit and disposition; led by his very duties to make observations; having opportunities more or less frequent of questioning Chinese; able himself to sketch every thing that came in his way; enabled by the increase of his fortune, a consequence of his successful administration

administration of the Company's affairs, to pay intelligent artists; and never tired of waiting in order that he might see things better, and hazard nothing upon mere conjecture, he every day added to what I shall call his Chinese riches.

But one of those uncommon events, such as it were to be wished might fall in the way of all true friends to useful science, occurred most opportunely to favour M. Van-Braam's inclinations and plan.

Appointed Second in the Embassy sent by the Dutch East-India Company to the Emperor of China in 1794, a vast extent of country was laid open to his view. Thus converting into personal experience what had been little more than oral tradition, he had the most favourable opportunity of verifying all that had been related to him, and, what was still more fortunate, of forming a judgment of things which he had not even had an idea of enquiring into, because nothing had given him reason to suspect their existence.

Astonished by what he saw, M. Van-Braam did not lose a single moment in making the inhabitants of the other parts of the world, as far as it depended upon him, partakers in the sensations he experienced, and in the well-founded admiration he felt on more than one occasion. Doubly a painter, his pen and his pencil were constantly employed in depicting whatever he saw; and sparing neither pains nor expence, he may be said not to have

have suffered any thing to escape him which was worthy of the attention of a discerning public.

The narrative of his journey may even be considered, in some degree, as an official account of the Dutch-Embassy, since having been submitted to the inspection of the persons belonging to that Embassy, it did not afford them the least room for criticism, and since the Ambassador himself took copies of it, with a view of sending them to the Regency of Batavia, and to the Prince Stadtholder.

The age of M. Van-Braam, the success that attended his undertaking, the ties of nature, and those of friendship, at last induced him to quit Canton on the sixth of December 1795, with a view to pass the rest of his days in the United States of America. He arrived at Philadelphia on the 24th of April 1796.

Never, I will venture to assert, did a foreigner leave China with a like treasure, or with so many testimonies of his veracity; and if M. Van-Braam had only exhibited his numerous drawings of every thing which that Empire presented to him as worthy of a place in his immense collection, China would be better known by them alone than by all that has been written concerning it till the present day. To give an idea of what is experienced upon a sight of all the drawings which M. Van-Braam has collected, and which represent China in every shape, and in every point of view, I will only say, that after

the curiosity of the most acute and inquisitive spectator is satiated, a multitude of things still remain to be examined, which excite his surprise anew.

Finally, as if it were M. Van-Braam's destiny to signalize his abode in China by the most striking circumstances, he has brought over with him several Chinese, who seem to be come purposely to attest the truth of what he has related concerning their country, or has represented in his collection of drawings: a collection which he exposed for several months at Philadelphia to the view of all amateurs of the sciences. It was even impossible to avoid fancying ourselves in China, while surrounded at once by living Chinese, and by representations of their manners, their usages, their monuments, and their arts.

Such are M. Van Braam's claims upon the goodwill of his readers, and, I had almost said, upon their gratitude.

As to the Editor's labours, they have been executed with the greatest care; and he at least deserves the praise of fidelity, since there is not a single line that has not been submitted to the examination of the Author, who is sufficiently master of the French to be an excellent judge of every thing written in that language.

Persuaded that a few explanatory notes would add to the interest of the work, the Author and Editor have placed
several

several at the head of each of the two volumes to which they more particularly belong *. The same motive has suggested them all—a desire to gratify the public.

It is with the same intention that the Editor has thought proper to subjoin to the work a notice of the valuable collection of drawings made by M. Van-Braam, who during five years constantly employed two Chinese draughtsmen in forming this numerous and curious assemblage of all kinds of objects. But how much does the Editor regret, that he cannot by this brief notice enable the Reader to participate in the pleasure resulting from a sight of the drawings; a pleasure which increases in proportion as the examination of the details is more deliberate, or is taken by eyes accustomed to find out beauties which elude, as it were, the first hasty view.

The Editor will indulge in no observations concerning the work itself, except that it every where exhibits a character of candour, which is that of the Author. There is nothing, even to the repetitions which the occurrence of similar matters must necessarily produce in a work written in the form of a journal, that does not prove his veracity. The frankness with which M. Van-Braam confesses, in two or three places, that he was mistaken as to points of which he thought himself assured by preceding circumstances, is a valuable testi-

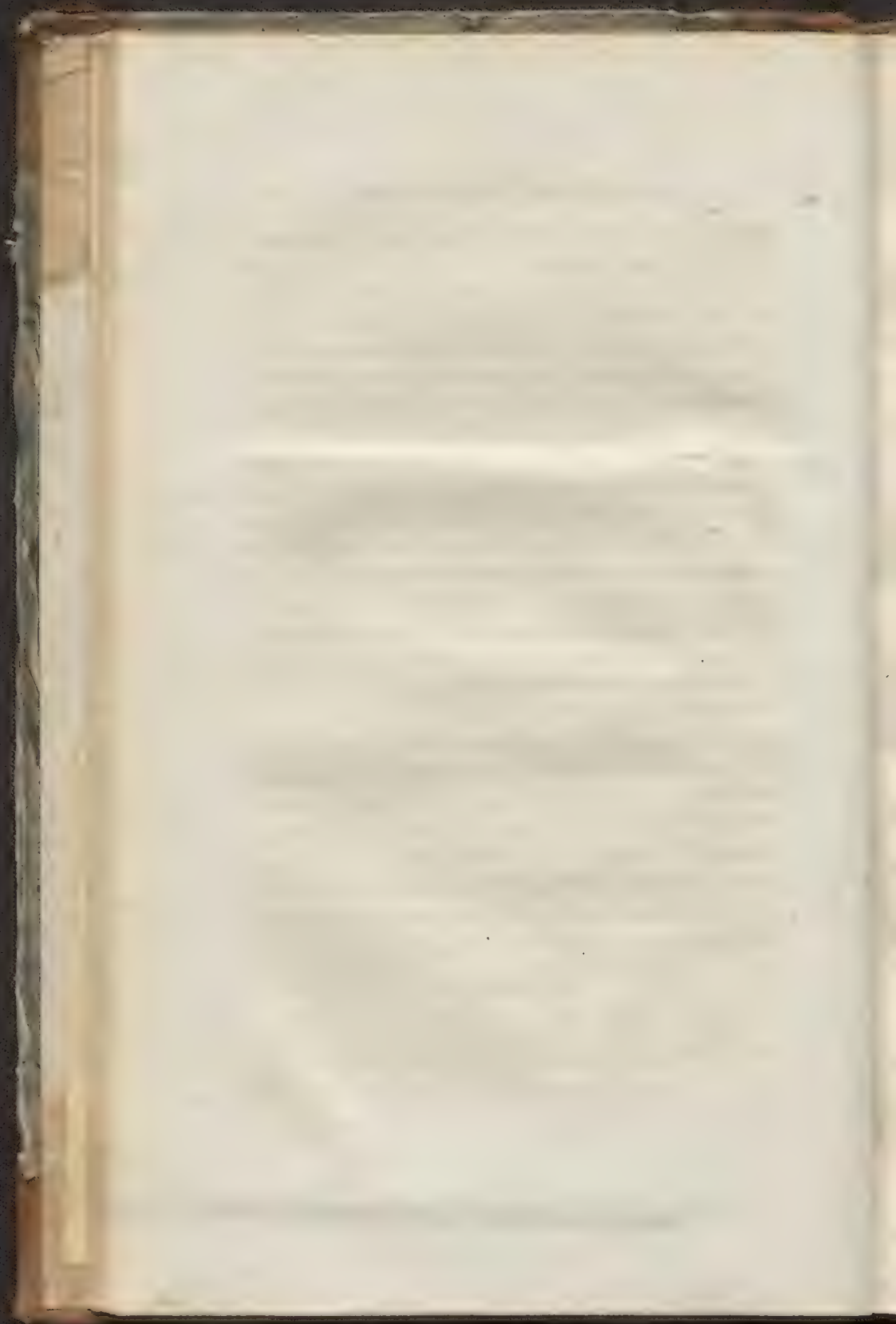
* This arrangement would certainly have been the most judicious; but, for some reason unknown to the English Editor, it has not been adopted. In the original the notes were all placed at the end of the last Volume; in the English edition they have been prefixed to the first.

mony of his literary probity, which in a traveller cannot be too highly prized.

The Editor will conclude this Advertisement by a reflection which will no doubt strike the Reader as it does him: it is, that M. Van Braam's journal, not being a work undertaken with a view to reason upon China in a systematic manner, but to give an account of what he has met with and perceived, it cannot be supposed or expected that he should reduce facts to an agreement with any particular opinions. It is simple facts that he relates; he commits them to paper in the order in which they present themselves; he even does it with a sort of eagerness admitting of no studied arrangement, or combination over which the usual vanity of an Author might have exerted its influence: all these circumstances are so many vouchers that his relation has been dictated by truth.

To exhibit this Journal in the French language in all its original purity has been the uniform study of the Editor; and the suffrage of the Author, under whose immediate inspection his labours have been carried on, is a favourable omen of his success. He shall esteem himself happy, if his feeble efforts are honoured with the approbation of the Reader.

MOREAU DE SAINT MERT.



INTRODUCTION.

A JOURNEY from Canton to the city of *Pe-king*, where the Imperial Court resides—a Journey made across parts of the Empire of China, which never yet were marked with the footstep of an European, and where his inquisitive eye never yet had an opportunity of making the smallest observation, cannot but be highly interesting to the Public, both in Europe, and throughout the United States of America; and will no doubt be received as an agreeable offering. In this hope it was that I undertook to write a relation of that Journey, and that I made a point with myself of committing to paper, with the least possible delay, every thing I should see and observe, in order that I might give a faithful description of it to my countrymen.

Whenever I travelled by water, I had my Journal always on the table, that every thing
b might

might be noted down in it at the very moment of its occurrence. Even night was not a reason for my dispensing with this rule. I thought it far better to lose a few hours rest, than to let a single remarkable object escape me.

When our road was over-land, it was my invariable practice, let the time of night be what it might, to commit to my Journal, which I then carried in my palanquin, whatever had appeared interesting to me during the day.

In returning from the Imperial Court to the hotel occupied by the Ambassador at *Pe-king*, I never felt any care more urgent than that of noting down every thing I had seen.

By these means I suffered nothing to escape me, and an excellent memory constantly helped me to re-trace the most minute particulars, and to recollect even the most trifling step I had taken.

It

It is in consequence of these continual precautions, that I am able to promise an exact narrative of the proceedings of the Embassy, extracted from my Journal; the constant depositary of facts, represented with the most strict regard to truth.

I may venture then to assert, that a scrupulous precision will be found in the details I present to the Public, and that my Work will moreover have the merit of being entirely new, since there is not a single line borrowed from any traveller or writer whatever. I should even think I offered an affront to every well informed Reader, if I were not convinced of his easily perceiving it himself. It is with the sole view therefore of doing further homage to truth, that I declare that for twenty years I had read nothing on the subject of China. Although we had with us the work of NIEUHOFF, concerning the first Dutch Embassy to *Pe-king*, I did not chuse to consult it, because I did not wish to enter into a refutation of its contents, a thing by no means impossible,

b 2

and

and because it seemed indubitable that a century and a half must have occasioned some change in the aspect of the towns and establishments, and in the face of the country.

One of our fellow-travellers, M. de Guignes, a Frenchman, who accompanied the Embassy in quality of Interpreter, noted down his observations also, with the intention of publishing them; but his project, which may even serve to shew the conformity of our remarks, was of no use to me, since neither I nor any other person attached to the Embassy, had any knowledge of his work. My Journal, on the contrary, was copied for the Ambassador, and lay open to the inspection of all the other Dutchmen who performed the journey.

On our return to Canton, I had the good fortune to meet with a very exact topographical chart of the city of *Pe-king*. The proprietor of that chart, which was already of very ancient date, would not part with it; but permitted me to take a copy. It
is

is so particular, that every street is distinguished, and the elevation of every edifice delineated. I easily recognized those of such streets as I had passed through in a carriage, and found out also the four gates or triumphal arches which I had remarked in a cross-road on my return from *Xuen-ming-yuen*, as mentioned in my Journal under date of the sixth of February 1795. I was thereby convinced of its perfect accuracy.

The Imperial residence, however, was only, in a manner, indicated without any thing to mark its limits. This defect I remedied, as far as my own judgment authorized me to do it, after having seen and gone through more than three-fourths of the palace. The suburbs were also wanting, but I borrowed them from the work of Du HALDE, in which the plan of the city is conformable to that of my great map.

Thus it was that I contrived to render my topography of *Pe-king* more exact than in the Chinese original. It was not, how-

ever, possible to give the suburbs in the same detail as the city, because my knowledge of them was not equally correct. I have therefore contented myself with indicating the principal streets that lead and adjoin to the gates of the town, together with the two well-known edifices, the temple of Heaven, and that of the Earth. The rest of the suburbs, in fact, present nothing to the eye but a piece of ground very irregularly built upon, in which are plots of cultivated land, and empty spaces, so that one half of it is yet without buildings, as we had an opportunity of clearly perceiving on the fifteenth of February 1795, when we left *Pe-king*. It appeared to me better to leave something imperfect in this respect, than to put errors in the place of things of which I was ignorant.

I hope, however, that this will be no reason why a map so interesting should be less agreeable to the curious than my relation itself; especially as I have also a number of other drawings and views, which by their conformity

conformity with the plan, bear witness to its accuracy. A part of them I sketched myself, and the remainder is in my collection of Chinese views, which are calculated still farther to prove the accuracy of what I say. I have no doubt of this kind of supplement fully satisfying the curiosity of my Readers.

I have written the names of the cities and other places, according to the orthography of the Chinese Mandarins, and with divisions. The *hyphens* signify that all which they do not separate, ought to be pronounced in a short and simple manner, as forming only one syllable, although there are some which, in European languages, would make two. *Kiang, Liang, Hiang*, must therefore be pronounced as a single syllable.

I thought it proper to give these previous explanations to my Readers, in hopes that my Work would not displease the Public, and if this expectation be not deceived, I

shall obtain the only recompence I dare to
ask for my labours and my care.

A. E. V. BRAAM HOUCKGEEST.

In magnis voluisse sat est.

NOTES,

N O T E S,
ARRANGED IN
ALPHABETICAL ORDER,
AND WHICH ARE
REFERRED TO IN THE COURSE OF THE WORK.

BAMBOO.

IT is indigenous in China, where no less than sixty-three distinct species are known. See *Memoires Chinois*, vol. ii. of the quarto edition, page 623.

BARROW.

In a work written by Father MARTIN, a Jesuit, intitled, *Description Géographique de la Chine*, and quoted by the *Histoire Générale de la Chine*, par Mailla, redigée par Grosier, in the 13th vol. of the quarto edition, it is said that the Chinese sailing barrows, or waggons, are a fiction. It would require, however, an extravagant degree of scepticism to doubt of their existence, after what the Author relates, and the engraved plan of one that is added to the drawings, of which a notice will be found at the end of the Second Volume.

BEAN.

The bean of which mention is several times made in this Work, and which furnishes the Chinese with a kind of juice or liquor,

liquor, that they drink like milk, is the *Cytisus Cajan* of Linnæus, known in several places by the name of *Pois Pigeon*, and erroneously confounded by Bomare with the *Angola pea*, which resembles it neither in form, taste, nor colour. (Fr. Ed.)

BEGGARS.

Beggars are not common in China. Some are seen at Canton.

During the journey of the Embassy, the author met with none, except in the west part of the province of *Chang-tong*, and in that of *Tcheli*. They are very unfrequent in the other parts of the empire. (Fr. Ed.)

BIRD'S-NESTS.

The following account is given of these bird's-nests in the *Histoire Générale de la Chine, par Maille*, vol. 13, of quarto edition, page 650.

"They come from the rocks upon the coast of *Tong-king*, *Java*, *Cochinchina*, &c. and are the nests built by a species of bird, of which the plumage much resembles that of our swallows. Their manner of building them is also nearly the same, except that the nests of the former are made of little fish, which they contrive to glue together with the spume of the sea. They are detached from the rocks as soon as the young ones take their flight; for it is the nest, and not the bird, that is of value. Whole boats are filled with this commodity, which becomes a considerable branch of commerce in the above countries. The property of this singular sort of aliment is to give a savoury taste to every dish of which it makes a part."

The Chinese are also of opinion that these bird's-nests are a stimulant to love, and in this persuasion, some of them have been known to give as much as an hundred Louis d'ors for twenty-five pounds weight of bird's-nests.

The Author himself sold some at Canton as high as six Louis d'ors the *Cati*, or twenty ounces French. (*Poids de marc*.)

They

They are carried to Holland, where there is a great consumption of them, and where they are in high request. (*Fr. Ed.*)

BUTTON.

A button, placed upon the front of the cap, serves in China to mark all the gradations of power, from the Emperor to the lowest Mandarin. The Emperor alone wears a large pearl as a button. Among the Mandarins, the buttons decrease in value in the following order:

A button of a dark purple stone of a round form, but having six sides or facets.

The same, oblong.

A button of figured coral of a round form, with six sides.

The same, oblong.

A button of plain coral of a round shape, and having six sides.

The same, oblong.

A button of a blue transparent stone of a round form, with six sides.

The same, but of an oblong shape.

A dark blue button of a round form, having six sides.

The same, oblong.

A white transparent button, having six sides, and a round form.

The same, oblong.

An opaque white button of a round form, with six sides.

The same, oblong.

A round gilt button.

A round silver button.

CASTLES.

The Chinese Castles are fortifications of more or less consequence, intended to defend particular points, and surrounded with

with walls, having embrasures, or loop holes in them, through which the soldiers fire their arrows or musket-shot.

CATI.

The *Cati* is a Chinese weight equal to sixteen taels or ounces, each of which is equivalent to an ounce and a quarter troy weight. (*Poids de marc.*)

CATJANG. See BEAN.

CEDAR.

Authors who have written concerning China have ventured to assert, that no such tree exists in the country; but M. Van Braam speaks of them too frequently for any doubt to remain on that head.

The Reader is also referred to the second vol. of the *Memoirs Chinois*, quarto edition, page 529, where it is called the Nam-mou of the Chinese. (*Fr. Ed.*)

CHAP.

A generical word, which indicates a piece of board or tablet, inscribed with the name of any one, or with some title designating him, to which the same honours are paid that he would have a right to expect in person.

A petition or memorial addressed to a tribunal, or to a person invested with any authority whatever, no matter on what subject, and even a common letter, is also a Chap.

COBIDO.

A Chinese measure of three kinds, *viz.* the Mandarin's *Cobido*; the merchant's *Gobido*; and the carpenter's *Cobido*. The last is meant as often as the word *Cobido* is employed in this work. It is equivalent to fourteen French inches, wanting a line. (*Fr. Ed.*)

COHANG,

COHANG.

The final *g* must not be pronounced. It is the Company of merchants of Canton, who enjoy the exclusive privilege of trading with Europeans.

COHANGIST.

A Merchant, member of the Company of Cohang.

CONFUCIUS.

I must observe here, that it is only in conformity with the French pronunciation, that I have put in the body of the Work *Kong-fou-tsé*, instead of *Hong-fou-tsé*, which M. Van Braam assures me is the true way of spelling the name of the first of all the Chinese philosophers. (*Fr. Ed.*)

COREA.

A kingdom of the peninsula of Asia, situated between China and Japan, to the north-east of the latter, on which it borders.

The inhabitants of this kingdom, which is tributary to China, are called Coreans. It was there Ambassadors whom the Author found at *Pe-king*, and with whom he was admitted to several audiences or imperial ceremonies. (*Fr. Ed.*)

COULIS.

This name, which is borrowed from India, is applied to all sorts of labourers, but particularly to those who carry persons, merchandize, &c. an occupation which is considered as the lowest of all, because it is that of such individuals as can get nothing else to do. Almost all of them go with their head and feet naked.

M. Van Braam thinks that the pay of those employed in the journey of the Embassy from Canton to *Pe-king*, was about twenty-five French *sous* (a shilling English) per day.

All authors concur in praising the Chinese *Coulis* for the address with which they carry the heaviest loads, by means of bamboos, which they lay across their shoulders, and to which the load is suspended by a cord. (*Fr. Ed.*)

DRAGON.

That fabulous animal is at once symbolical and mythological in China. Every thing that emanates from the Emperor bears the figure of a dragon; and it is also put upon all the Imperial edifices, furniture, and ornaments.

The Dragon is venerated throughout China; but the Emperor alone has the right of having them painted, embroidered, or sculptured with five claws or talons. The rest of the nation cannot use figures of dragons with more than four.

EMPEROR.

It has been said erroneously (*Lettres Edifiantes*, tome 17, page 69) that he alone has the right of having his palace exactly fronting the south; for every individual turns his house as much as he can to that quarter of the sky, as the most salubrious and convenient exposure. See *Memoires Chinois*, tome iii. in 4to. page 434. (*Fr. Ed.*)

It is with the same disregard of truth that it has been said, that the Chinese shut themselves up in their houses when the Emperor goes out, and that those he happens to meet on his road turn their backs with their face to the ground, to escape the penalty of death. It has even been asserted, that this is the reason why the houses have no windows looking into the streets. These assertions, already contradicted by the *Memoires Chinois*, tome ii. page 273, are formally disproved by what the Author relates of the Emperor, while on his way to *Tuen-ming-yuen*. (*Fr. Ed.*)

He, of whose hanging himself the Author speaks, was *Hoai-tsong*, the last Emperor of the Chinese dynasty of *Ming*. Seeing himself

himself on the point of falling into the hands of the Manchou Tartars, he hung himself with his own girdle, within the walls of the Imperial palace, after having given his daughter a false wound, of which *Dubalde* (vol. i. page 478, of the octavo edition) says she died; but from which the *Histoire Générale de la Chine, par Mailla*, vol. x. octavo edition, page 492, affirms that she recovered. At the time of this event, which took place in 1644, the unfortunate monarch was thirty-six years of age. (*Fr. Ed.*)

EXAMINATION OF STUDENTS.

This relates to the young men who devote themselves to the study of the sciences. There are generally four thousand in the Academy, or Gymnasium, at Canton.

The Chinese attach the highest importance to the examinations they undergo, because those who get through them successfully are destined to fill the different posts in the Administration, even the most eminent.

Very curious details concerning these examinations, and the attendant formalities, are to be found in the *Lettres Edifiantes*, page 125. (*Fr. Ed.*)

FOU-YUEN.

This is the governor of a great city, and of a portion of territory forming the district round. Four of the provinces of China have Fou-yuens for their immediate Chiefs.

GATE.

Those which mark the separation of the provinces, and of which the author mentions one in the course of the work, are great and heavy gates of wood, with their hinges let into the rock. They are carefully guarded, and shut during the night.

GONGOM.

The *Gongom* is a copper basin suspended by a cord, and struck with a very large stick. This instrument, which is very
sonorous,

sonorous, has the sound of a small or large bell, according as it is of greater or smaller size.

The word *Gongom* is not Chinese; for it is used in Africa to signify a large drum, which is also called *Tam-tam* in other African countries.

The Chinese word for *Gongom* is *Lo*. In the *Mémoires Chinois*, vol. ii. of the quarto edition, is a very curious description of the manner of making it, given by the learned M. Amiot, who says that it is composed of a mixture of copper, tin, and bismuth, in the proportion of ten parts of copper, three of tin, and one of bismuth. (*Fr. Ed.*)

HOU-POU.

Is the principal officer of the customs, and receiver-general of the taxes. It is merely an office, and not a distinct rank among the Mandarins; for a Mandarin with a white button, and even with a clear blue button, may be equally appointed Hou pou.

Jos.

A Chinese generical word, signifying *Idol*.

LAMAS. See THILET.

LEAGUE.

As often as the word league occurs in this work, it must be understood as a league of 25 to the degree, and equal to 2.282 toises.

It must also be observed that the distances, mentioned in those parts of the journey performed by water, are those actually travelled, in following the course of the rivers and canals, and not the positive distance from one place to another.

LEMA ISLANDS.

These are little islands, or rather small and barren rocks, fifteen or sixteen in number, situated at about five leagues distance from the river of Canton,

LI.

A Chinese itinerary measure. 250 *Li* make a degree of latitude. Now, as a degree of latitude is estimated at 25 leagues of 2,280 toises each, it is equivalent to 57,050 toises. A *li* is consequently equal 228 $\frac{1}{5}$ toises. The toise is six French feet. (*Fr. Ed.*)

LINGUA.

This term is Portuguese.

MAHOMETANS.

We find in the *Mémoires Chinois*, tom. 5, in 4to. page 24, that Gengis-kan introduced Mahometans into China, and that about 1650, the Emperor *Chun-cky* drove out those who were still in possession of the chair of mathematics.

As to the motive of the expulsion of the Mahometans from China in 1784, which agrees with that mentioned by the author, when speaking of the Mosque, which he found at *Hong-tcheou-fou*, a very circumstantial account of it is given in a letter from M. Aniot, a Missionary, dated the 15th of November, 1784, and also contained in the *Mémoires Chinois*, tom. 11, in 4to. page 590. (*Fr. Ed.*)

MANCHOO. See TARTARS.

MEASURE.

As often as measures are not specially designated, they are French. (*Fr. Ed.*)

MIAO.

A general term for temples dedicated to idols. They are very considerable buildings in China, and some of them cost immense sums. See *Religion*. (*Fr. Ed.*)

MONEY. See TAEI.

MONGOLS. *See* TARTARS.

MONQUA,

Or, according to the pronounciation, *Monceua*, was the Chief of the Company of Cohagg, at the time of which the author is speaking. (*Fr. Ed.*)

NAMHEUYEN.

This is a Mandarin of Justice, whose special business it is to maintain the police, and preserve order among the inhabitants.

PAINT.

It appears in the instructions of the Emperor *Kang-hi* to his sons, given in the *Mémoires Chinois*, quarto edition. vol. ix. page 226, that under the preceding dynasty, the cerufs and cinnabar consumed by the servant-girls belonging to the palace, cost ten millions of livres. (*Fr. Ed.*)

PALANQUIN.

It is, properly speaking, an European sedan-chair, except that the poles are longer, more elastic, and borne upon the shoulders. There are some which are open; and others that are more or less richly painted, according to the uses, and the persons, for which they are intended. The poles or shafts are so contrived, that the number of bearers may be increased; rather out of luxury, and to announce high rank, than for any purpose of real utility. From two to eight porters are generally employed; but the Emperor has no less than thirty-two. (*Fr. Ed.*)

PEACOCK'S FEATHER.

This feather, stuck in the cap of a Chinese, announces that he is a great Mandarin of letters, or Military Mandarin of the first rank.

In the Imperial palace, there are Mandarins wearing this feather, who may be compared to the *Valets-de-Chambre* of European Princes.

There is also a kind of Mandarins who wear a long black feather; but these two kinds of *Mandarins in waiting* do not wear their feathers out of the palace, nor even when off duty; while the Mandarins of the first rank never lay theirs aside.

PE-KING. See CHUN-TING-FOU. See also TEMPERATURE.

At *Pe-king*, the north part, in which stands the Imperial palace, is distinguished by the appellation of the *Tartar City*; and all the south quarter, which properly speaking is only the suburbs of *Pe-king*, is called the *Chinese City*.

The proper name of this city is *Chun-ting-fou*; the word *Pe-king*, which signifies the Northern Court, being only an epithet. But the Europeans have adopted the latter word, because more easy to pronounce.

PICOL.

A picol is equal to a hundred *Catis*, or a hundred and twenty-five French pounds, troy-weight (*poids de marc*). (*Fr. Ed.*)

PORTUGUEZE.

The reader must not be surprised in this work, at several words derived from the Portuguese, since Portuguese and English are the habitual and commercial tongues of foreigners at Canton. (*Fr. Ed.*)

PROSTITUTES.

Gemelle reproaches Nieuhoff with saying, that there are women of that description in China; but the fact is but too true, and is proved unequivocally by what the Author says upon the subject.

On the river of Canton there are boats with women of pleasure in them. With these women the Chinese of the town sometimes pass three or four days together.

They are trained up by other women, who carry on this shameful traffic; and are so instructed as to be ignorant of nothing lascivious or immodest. As the Chinese experience no tenderness from their wives, they are fond of this sort of immorality.

Among these girls there are some who at the age of ten years are already withered and worn out by the excess of their complaisance.

Several of them sometimes join the execution of what they have been taught, or what they have devised to inflame the imagination of their admirers. (Fr. Ed.)

RED CANDLES.

They are made of a kind of tallow extracted from a tree, and are coated with tallow of a harder kind, and afterwards painted red. The wick of all the Chinese candles is of bamboo.

REGENCY.

The word Regency is repeatedly used in this work to signify government or administration; as the regency of Batavia, the regency of Macao, and even the regency of Canton, that is, the administration of the province of *Quang-tong*, intrusted to the *Tsong-tou*, the *Fou-yuen*, and the *Hou-pou*, who all reside in the city of Canton. (Fr. Ed.)

RELIGION.

The primitive religion of China is that of the ancient patriarchs, such as Abraham, Melchisedeck, &c. It is from that religion that the Emperor derives the title of High Priest of the Almighty; by virtue of which he alone exercises the functions of it in China.

The

The second sort of religion, adopted long after the first, and consequently when the Chinese were already embodied into a regular nation, is Idolatry, and Idolatry carried to such a length, that every one is free to make Gods according to his fancy, so that every head of a family has some of his own creation.

This plurality of Gods naturally precludes all idea of a particular form of worship bringing together the members of certain sects. There are no external practices of devotion among the Chinese, if we except the male and female Bonzes.

There are, however, principal divinities who are very generally revered; and to whom all agree in ascribing a power over some particular thing. The Chinese sometimes go to the temples of these divinities to offer them homage; and to this worship the women are not altogether strangers, though they repair to the pagodas with great precautions to avoid being seen; but this has nothing in common, nor comparable with the usage, which in certain religions bring together all the individuals who profess it in one common temple. The Bonzes alone assemble to pray.

But notwithstanding the almost universal prevalence of idolatry, and notwithstanding its being countenanced by the Emperor himself, it is worthy of remark that he never goes to adore an idol, but contents himself with sending Mandarins to do so in his stead.

He professes publicly no other religion than that of the Almighty, God of *Heaven* and of *Earth*; nor does he offer sacrifices to any but that Being superior to all others, to the manes of his ancestors, and to the spirit of Confucius.

There are temples or *Miaos* where obscene Idols receive a tribute of respect and devotion from the Chinese, who generally blush at things which the most severe modesty does not blame in other countries; but superstition throws as it were a veil over these images, which prevents Chinese modesty from being here put to the blush.

SAMSOU.

A Chinese liquor drawn from rice by distillation. The common *Samsou* has a very disagreeable taste, but that of the court is on the contrary very pleasant.

SALUTES.

The salutes fired by the Chinese, in honour either of the Embassy, or Ambassador, consisted in discharging three small pieces of cannon, or rather pedereros, stuck in the ground with their muzzles upwards.

SAMPANE.

A Chinese boat, which carries from five to eight hundred weight. They are used at Vampou to load and unload the European ships, which find it impossible to get beyond that roadsted into the river of Canton, on account of the shallowness of the latter.

SAPANTIN.

The Portuguese name for a light vessel, built for going fast, either with oars or sails, and employed, for that reason, as advice boats between Canton and Macao. These vessels also go out to sea.

TAEL.

A weight of gold or silver, equivalent to an ounce and a quarter French, or in money to about seven livres ten sous. In China a hundred Spanish dollars are reckoned worth seventy-two taels.

The Chinese have no pieces of money but *sepeccas* of copper.

TARTARS.

The *Manchoo Tartars* are those who inhabit Chinese Eastern Tartary. Expelled from China in 1368, with the Monguls who
had

had admitted them, they had their own chiefs under the name of *Kans* till 1644; but the *Kan of Ningouta*, then become Emperor of China, and head of the present dynasty, which consequently springs from a Manchoo Tartar, subjected them all.

The *Mongul Tartars*, who conquered China in 1280, and who were driven out in 1280, inhabit Chinese Western Tartary. They are governed by *Kans*, or princes, who are all subject to the Emperor of China, as Grand Kan of the Tartars. (*Fr. Ed.*)

TEMPERATURE.

I beg the reader here to pardon my entering into a comparison of temperatures.

Pe-king is in 39 degrees 55 minutes north latitude, and Philadelphia in 39 degrees 56, so that they may be said to be under the same parallel.

The winter is exceedingly cold and severe at *Pe-king*; and the nature of the winter at Philadelphia is the same.

The winter begins earlier at *Pe-king* than at Philadelphia, but it is over equally late at both places.

At *Pe-king* the north wind is inexpressibly piercing and prevalent.

In the city of Philadelphia the same may be said of the north-west.

At *Pe-king*, water freezes before Reaumur's thermometer has fallen to the freezing point, a phenomenon also observed at Philadelphia.

There is however in general less intensity, and still less duration in the cold at Philadelphia, than at *Pe-king*; since in the former city there are pretty frequently partial thaws, which soften the surface of the ice (for it does not melt till at a degree of heat which would melt it in France.)

As to the summer it is so hot at *Pe-king* that Reaumur's thermometer is often at 32 degrees above 0 (104 of Fahrenheit.)

In 1743 the heat was so excessive, that increasing from the 15th of July to the 25th, it raised the thermometer, that last day, to 35 degrees and a half ($111\frac{1}{2}$ of Fahrenheit). There died within that time at *Pe-king* eleven thousand four hundred persons, although refreshments were distributed in the streets.

In 1760 the heat killed eight thousand persons in less than two months.

Philadelphia is without doubt far from experiencing such a fatal degree of heat; but the thermometer often rises as high as 28 degrees of Reaumur (95 of Fahrenheit). In the summer the days are burning hot; they are distressing; and the nights are almost as hot as the day.

Another resemblance between the two places I am speaking of, is the sudden change in the state of the atmosphere—a change which sometimes amounts to ten or twelve degrees of Reaumur, in less than twenty-four hours, and frequently to five or six degrees in a very few hours. This variation is most frequently produced at Philadelphia by the north-west wind.

The barometer also undergoes very sudden changes at Philadelphia. I have sometimes observed there from 6 to 7 lines difference in less than as many hours.

Pe-king is then at once colder and hotter than Philadelphia; but can the opinion adopted by the inhabitants of the latter city, concerning the favourable alteration that is to take place in both seasons, be considered as well founded, after what we know of *Pe-king*, which notwithstanding the clearing of the land some thousand years back, still remains the same?

I am aware that it may be said that Naples and Madrid, which are nearly under the same parallel of latitude as *Pe-king* and Philadelphia, enjoy notwithstanding a very different temperature of those two cities. But I believe that we may conclude from this circumstance, that the clearing of the land, and the change of climate seems to be expected in America,

America, is not the only cause that operates in producing a particular temperature; and in spite of all that is said of the favourable alteration that has taken place in the last 60 years, I doubt whether that opinion, though pretty generally received, deserves entire confidence. Nothing is more subject to error than judgments formed concerning the state of the atmosphere, when they are only founded upon our sensations. (*Fr. Ed.*)

TIBET.

A kingdom tributary to China, and bordering upon it to the westward. The priests are there called *Lamas*, and there the *Grand* or *Dalai-Lama* has his residence. (*Fr. Ed.*)

TIDES.

Father Martin, in his geographical description of China, tom. 8, in folio, *du Recueil des Voyages de Thëvenot*, page 141, speaks of the movement of the tide at *Hong-tcheou-fou* mentioned by M. Van Braam. He even pretends that in the month of October it is accompanied by very extraordinary circumstances.

TREES.

The author's speaking of the shade of trees on the 27th of November, is by no means surprizing, when it is considered that he was still in the province of *Quang-tong*, where the forest trees never lose their leaves, but only change them in the spring, the winter being there scarcely perceptible.

The fruit trees, on the contrary, shed their leaves in the months of September and October.

TSONG-TOU.

Is, properly speaking, a Vice-roy governing a province. This employ is the most elevated that can be held by a Mandarin of the first rank, who is not officially resident at Court. Only eight of the fifteen provinces of China are governed

governed by *Tsong-tous*, three of whom have two provinces subject to their administration. The four remaining are superintended by *Fou-yuens*.

The authority of a *Tsong-tou* is very great. He is never addressed without marks of the most profound respect: no Chinese, unless a Mandarin, is ever allowed even to speak to him but on his knees. The title given him by his countrymen in addressing him is most suitably translated by that of *Highness*.

WALL (Great).

Which is the boundary of China towards Tartary.

The annals of China say it was begun under one Prince, three hundred and three years before the Christian æra; that it was then continued by two others; that a fourth united these first three portions; and that it was completed more than two hundred years after. See *Mémoires Chinois*, tom. 2, in 4to. p. 461.

The Chinese call the great wall *Ouan-li-tehang tebing*, that is, the great wall of ten thousand li.

It does not, however, with all its windings and turnings comprise more than five hundred leagues. It is twenty or twenty-five feet high, and broad enough in some places for six horses to pass abreast. In some parts it is carried over mountains almost inaccessible, and is in one place, according to Father Verbiest, eight hundred and sixty-four toises above the level of the sea. In some places it is also carried over rivers upon arches.

Since the Tartars subdued China, some few passages are alone kept in repair. The rest is falling to ruins.

See *Histoire Générale de la Chine*, par Mailla, tom. 2, in 4to. page 373. (Fr. Ed.)

YELLOW

Is the colour set apart for the Imperial Family in China.

All the princes of the blood, descended in a right line from the founder of the dynasty, wear a yellow girdle. In the collateral branches, the girdle is orange-colour.

There is no fear of any other individual wearing that colour, because in the Empire of China, the dress of every one is fixed by law, from the Emperor, to the very lowest classes.

There are sometimes articles of dress in which yellow appears, although they do not belong to Members of the Imperial Family. Such are the robes given to celebrated warriors. But those vestments have something in their form which exhibits a striking difference, at the same time that the yellow colour excites the idea of a great favour conferred. (*Fr. Ed.*)

Y-TAY-YEN.

This is a Court Mandarin, and member of the great tribunal for the administration of public affairs.

ITINERARY

Of the Journey made by the Dutch Embassy to the Court of the Emperor of China, from Canton to Pe-king; serving to explain the Map inserted at the beginning of the first Volume.

NOVEMBER, 1794.

22. We set off (by water upon the river) from Quang-cheou-fou, in the province of (Canton) *Quang-tong*.

23. Fochan; a city without walls, of considerable commercial consequence.

San Cheuye-chen.

24. T'ing-yun-chen.

26. In-té-chen.

28. Chao-tcheou-fou.

1794, *December*.

Nan-hiong-fou.

From thence we travelled over the mountains called *Moiling-chan* to Nan-ngan-fou, in the province of *Kiang-si*.

From thence we resumed our journey by the river.

4. Nan-hang-chen.

5. Kan-tcheou-fou.

6. Nan-ngan-chen.

1

7. Tai-ho-chen.

7. Tai-hio-chen.
Ki-ngan-fou.
8. Ki-chauye-chen.
Kia-kiang-chen.
Sin-tu-chen.
9. Tong-ching-chen.
10. Tfa-tfin-se, which is on the opposite side.
Nan-tchang fou.

Thence we proceeded by land, being still in the province of Kiang-fi.

11. Kien-tchang-chen.
Ta ngan-chen.
13. Kieou-kiang-fou.
Liang-kiang. A village.

Then through the province of *Hou-quang*.

14. Houang-mey-chen.
15. Ting ching chan.

Through the province of *Kiang-nam*.

16. Fong-chang-y. A village.
Tay-ha-chen.
Tcheou-tfi-eck. A town.
17. Tfen-chan-chen.
Tcheou-lou-hau. A town.
18. Tau-tchong-y. A village.
Tong-ching-chen.
Tay-qua-se. A village.
Yu-ching chen.
22. Tau-chan-chen.
Koun-eck. A town.
23. Liu-tcheou-fou.
Tjn-fau-se. A village.

24. Liang-chan-chen.

24. Liang-chan-chen.
Ho-chan-ek. A town.
Ching-kiou-ek. A town.
25. Ting-yun-chen.
26. Hong-chiang-chen.
Lin-ouay-chen.
27. Hau-kiang-po. A town.
Cau-chan-ek. A town.
28. V'ha-chan-y. A village.
Sieou-tcheou.
29. Y-cau-y. A town.
Tau-chan-ek. A town.
30. Siu-tcheou.
Li-cok-ek. A town.
31. Long-chong, A village.
Tong-y-lau. A village.
- Through the province of *Chan-tong*.
Chau-cau-ing. A town.
- 1795, *January*.
Kay-hau. A village.
Lam-ching-chen.
Tang-chen.
Kay-hau-y-chen.
T'feo-chen
2. Yen-tcheou-fou.
Ouon-chang-chen.
3. Tong-ping-tcheou.
Tong-ngo-chen.
Fong-ching-ek. A town.
4. Yin-ping-chen.
Ji-ou-chan. A town.
Kao-tang-tcheou.

5. Nghen-chen.

5. Ngen-chen.

Te-tcheou.

Through the province of *Tché-li*.

King-tcheou.

6. Fau-ching-chen.

Kien chen.

7. Ho-kien-fou.

Lin-chou-fing. A town.

Yin-kion-chen.

Hiong-chen.

8. Sin-ching-chen.

Tfo-cheou.]

9. Liang-hiang-chen.

Lo-ko-kiou. A town.

Fec-ching-fe. A city.

Chun-ting-fou, or *Pe-king*.

RETURN OF THE EMBASSY.

Through the province of *Tché-li*.

1795, *February*.

15. Fec-ching-fé.

Chin-tcheou-tin. A village.

16. Liang-hiang-chen.

Tan-tsin-y. A town.

Tfo-tcheou.

17. Fan-koun. A village.

Sin-ching-chen.

18. Pay-hau-fe. A small place.

Hiong-chen.

19. Yen-kiou-chen.

Y-li-pou. A town.

20. Ho-kien-fou.

20. Ho-kien-fou.
Hien-chen.
21. Chin-ka-kien. A small place.
Fau-ching-chen.
22. King-tcheou.
Through the province of Chan-tong.
Te-tcheou*.
23. Ping-yuen-chen.
24. Un-chan-kiou. A town.
Yu-ching-chen.
Tfi-ho-chen-onfang. A town.
25. Tfi-ho-chen.
Chang-tfin-chen-onfang. A town.
Chang-tfin-chen.
Chang-haya. A village.
26. Kong-chan-pu. A town.
Kong-chan-chiou.
Song-ching-chen.
Tay-ngan-tcheou.
27. Chui-ku-chan. A town.
Yong-lau-chen.
28. Sin-tay-chen.
Mong in-chen.
- 1795, *March*.
1. Kiang-cha-fin. A town.
Teu-chang-y. A town.
Tfang-ti-tfi. A village.
2. Poun-chan. A village.
Sin-cong-y. A hamlet.

* Hence the road is no longer the same as that by which the Ambassador went to *Pe-king*.

Sin-cong-chen.

3. Li-ca-chong. A town.

Sau-yi-pu. A village.

4. Yen-chin-chen.

Kiang-vho-fau-y. A village.

Through the province of Kiang-nam.

Tcheou-mou. A village.

5. Sang-hau-ché. A village.

Su-tien-chen.

In-hau-ché. A village.

6. Tfong-king-ché. A town.

Von-ca-sen. A town.

8. Sin-can-pu. A town.

Then by water through the same province.

Tfin-ho-chen.

Houay-ngan-fou.

9. Pau-in-chen.

12. Kau-you-tcheou.

Yang-tcheou-fou.

17. Qua-tcheou.

Ching-kiang-fou.

18. Tang-yang-chen.

19. Chang-tcheou-fou.

20. Vou-fi-chen.

21. Sou-tcheou-fou.

22. Un-kiang-chen.

Through the province of *Tché-kiang*.

23. Che-men-chen.

24. Hong-tcheou-fou.

25. By land 20 *li*, as far as the town called *Tjak-bau*,
and then by water.

28. Fu-vang-chen.

29. Tong-lu-chen.

29. Tong-lu-chen.

30. Yen-tcheou-fou.

31. Lan-ki-chen.

1795, *April*.

2. Long-you-chen.

3. Kiou-tcheou-fou.

4. Chang-chàn-chen.

5. By land 85 *li*, as far as the city of Chu-chan-chen, in the province of Kiang-si, and then by water.

7. Quang-fin-fou.

8. Ko-yang-chen.

9. Qua-ki-chen.

10. Ngan-yin-chen.

11. Yu-kan-chen.

13. Nan-tchang-fou*.

15. Tong-ching-chen.

17. Sin-tu-chen.

18. Kia-kiang-chen.

19. Ki chauye-chen.

20. Ki-ngan-fou.

21. Tay-ho-chen.

23. Nan-ngan-fou.

27. Kan-tcheou-fou.

29. Nan-hang-chen.

1795, *May*.

1. Nan-ngan-fou.

3. By land 120 *li*, crossing again the mountains of *Moiling-chang*, as far as the city of Nan-hiong-fou, in the province of *Quang-tong*.

* Here the Embassy returned to the road by which it had gone to *Peking*.

5. Chao-tcheou-fou.

5. Chao-tcheou-fou.
6. In-tcheou.
7. Tcheou-yan-chou.
8. San-ching-chou.
9. Fo-chan. A city without walls, but equally commercial with Quang-tong.
10. Quang-tong-fou, or Quang-tong.

Although the places not inclosed by walls, and the villages mentioned in the Itinerary are not indicated by figures, it is easy nevertheless to conceive the direction in which they lie, as a dotted line marks the road we pursued.

The cities which terminate in *fou*, are those of the first order; *tcheou* designates those of the second; and the final syllable *chen*, those of the third order.

J O U R N E Y
OF THE EMBASSY
OF THE
DUTCH EAST-INDIA COMPANY
TO THE COURT OF THE EMPEROR OF CHINA,
IN THE YEARS 1794, AND 1795.

APRIL 2, 1794.

ON the 2d of April, 1794, at noon, a visit was paid me by the *Namheuyün** of the city of *Quang-tcheou-fou*, (commonly called *Quang-tong*, and by the French, Canton), accompanied by the merchant *Monqua*, Chief of the *Cohang*. After the usual civilities, the Mandarin, whom *Monqua* served as an interpreter, informed me that he

* For an explanation of this, and the other Chinese words, as well as of several facts, allusions, and other localities, the reader is referred to the alphabetical notes immediately preceding the work. As most of them relate, in the first instance at least, to the first volume, it has been thought better to place them there, than to put them at the end of the work, as was done by the French Editor.

VOL. I.

B

was

was sent by the *Tjong-tou*, who wished to know whether the Dutch East-India Company would not adopt the idea of sending a Deputy to *Pe-king*, to congratulate the Emperor on the anniversary of his accession to the Throne, which his Majesty was going to celebrate for the sixtieth time. He added, that the English, as well as the Portuguese settled at *Macao*, had manifested an intention to take a part in that remarkable event, and that as the Dutch nation was one of the first established in China, the *Tjong-tou* would feel a real satisfaction at seeing a representative of the Company attend at the solemnity. I might even in the opinion of the *Namheuyên* go to *Pe-king* in quality of Envoy, provided I could obtain from my immediate superiors, letters of credit, addresses of congratulation for the Emperor, and recommendations to the *Tjong-tou*.

After expressing the gratitude I felt for this kind overture of the *Tjong-tou*, I spoke of an opportunity which fortunately presented itself of communicating it to the Commillaries-General, lately arrived at Batavia from Holland, and of my conviction that the wishes of the *Tjong-tou* would be fulfilled.

The

The *Namhennyun* asked within what space of time I might expect to receive an answer. I answered that five months would be sufficient, and that it would not require more than seven for the arrival of an Envoy at *Macao*, in case one should be sent.

On hearing this, he testified a great deal of satisfaction, and requested me to use all possible diligence in the execution of my promise, of which he would give immediate information to the *Tsong-tou*. He charged me expressly to recommend the measure to the *Great Mandarins* of Batavia, and to press them to adopt it without delay. I assured him repeatedly that he might depend upon my zeal.

The Mandarin then observed to me, that the *Pe-king* journey was to take place in March 1795. The object of his mission being now fulfilled, he rose, after having accepted a glass of Cape wine; and when he retired, with an air expressive of his satisfaction, I showed him all the customary marks of honour, by attending him to his palanquin.

Two vessels, belonging to private individuals of Bombay, and commanded by Captains Richardson and Douglas, being still in the road of

Vamjou, which they were to leave in a fortnight, in order to return to Bombay, by way of Batavia, I determined to avail myself of the opportunity to inform their Excellencies the Commissaries General of the invitation I had received. I wrote to them, in consequence, a circumstantial dispatch, the copy of which will be found under the letter A, among the documents which I have thought proper to add to this work.

The Commissaries General, having received my dispatches, determined to send an Embassy; and his Excellency M. Isaac Titzing, one of the Ordinary Counsellors of the Grand Council of the Dutch Indies, was the person chosen to go to *Pe-king* in quality of Ambassador.

July. On the 17th of July, 1794, I received notice of this appointment by a small English vessel from Batavia, which brought me a letter from the Ambassador himself, informing me that I was to be employed as second in the Embassy. I hastened to convey this news from *Macao* to the Dutch merchants of Canton, and to request them to communicate it to the *Tsong-tou*, that proper preparations might be made for the reception of his Excellency. A few days after, I received an answer, acquainting me that
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the *Tfong-tou*, the *Fou-yuen*, the *Hou-pou*, and the other Mandarins, had learnt the appointment of an Ambassador with great satisfaction; that orders had been given for his being received with every mark of distinction; and that I was requested to send off, without losing a single moment, an express from *Macao* to *Canton*, as soon as I should hear of the arrival of our ships. They added, that it was supposed that the Ambassador would come directly in his own vessel to *Vampou*; whither the *Hou-pou* would repair in person, to compliment his Excellency; and that two Mandarins, of inferior rank, would be charged to go and congratulate him at the head of all the *Co-hangist* merchants as soon as he should arrive at the *Mouth of the Tygris*, (*Bocca-Tygris*).

September. I waited till the beginning of the month of September at *Macao*, for the arrival of our ships, with the resolution of setting off on the 10th for *Canton*, with all the persons belonging to the Direction, of which I was at the head. We went on board accordingly on the 9th.

In the afternoon of the same day, I was informed by an American Supercargo (Mr. Olmstead) at the moment of his arrival, that he had been on the 3d of the same month, near *Pulo-*

Condor, on board of our ship the *Siam*, and that he had conversed with the Ambassador, who had given him a letter for me. Mr. Olmstead thought it probable that our ships, which were four in number, might arrive in three days at *Matao*; but our baggage being already embarked, I persisted in my determination to go to *Canton*. I directed Radinel, a Supercargo, to remain at *Macao*, and compliment the Ambassador the moment he should appear in the road; to stay on board and accompany him to *Canton*; and to lose no opportunity of making himself of use.

10th. Setting off from *Macao* on the 10th of September, we arrived off *Canton* at twelve at night, when it was too late to go on shore. Early in the morning of the 13th we repaired to the Factory, whither we had been preceded by a *Sapientin*, bearing the agreeable news that the four ships of the Company, the *Siam*, the *Washington*, the *Swan*, and the *Sea Flower*, had cast anchor near the *Lema* Islands.

On the following day, the *Hou-pou* was acquainted that the ships were approaching *Macao*, and on the 15th I resolved to set off in a great *Sampane* for Bocca-Tygris, in order to present my respects to the Ambassador. The *Hou-pou* having granted

granted me a *chap* (passport) I arrived on the 17th, towards noon, at the *Castle*, one of the forts that defend the entrance of Bocca-Tygris, and at half past two I got on board the *Siam*. I cordially congratulated his Excellency, who in return added every mark of consideration to a very friendly reception.

In the afternoon, two Mandarins came to inform his Excellency that the *Castles* were going to salute him; and an instant after they fired their guns, which were answered by three volleys from the *Siam*, for each *Castle*, agreeably to the custom of the Chinese.

18th. The wind on the 18th having shifted to the North, and the vessel being consequently able to make but little way, I took leave of his Excellency with his own consent, and set off for Canton, where I landed on the 19th early in the afternoon. I there prepared my apartments in such a way as to make them fit lodgings for the Ambassador, and took possession of those belonging to the second in the Direction,

22d. At length the *Siam* arrived at *Vampon*. The following morning I repaired on board, accompanied by all the Members of the Council,

to pay our respects to his Excellency in a body, and to express the pleasure we felt at his arrival. We set off again for the Factory in the afternoon, leaving on board the ship three Deputies from the Council, to accompany the Ambassador as far as Canton, whither he was to repair after the visit of the *Hou-pou*, which was fixed for the next day.

24th. On the 24th I returned to the ship, in compliance with the wishes of that Mandarin, who was desirous that his visit should be paid to me in common with the Ambassador.

It was about eleven o'clock when the *Hou-pou* came on board. I went to receive him as far as the top of the ladder, and conducted him to the cabin of the Ambassador. He congratulated his Excellency on his arrival, and testified the pleasure he felt at seeing him there.

He afterwards made inquiry in a very particular manner into the motive of Embassy; and being told in answer that it had no other object than to congratulate the Emperor on his entry into the sixtieth year of his reign, he persisted again in asking if his Excellency were not charged with any other mission. Being again assured that he
was

was not, he repeated, that in case any thing were to be proposed to his Imperial Majesty, of any nature whatever, it must be mentioned beforehand, because it was necessary that the Court should have previous information. He was told a third time, that nothing whatever was meant but to offer congratulations and presents to the Emperor. He then required the Ambassador and me to declare upon our honour that we spoke the truth; a request with which we readily complied.

He next asked to see the letter addressed to his Imperial Majesty. His Excellency gave him a copy, which the Mandarin did not think what it ought to be, and of which he considered the outside as much too plain. Being told that the original contained a Chinese translation, he desired permission to break open the cover; that he might see the contents of the letter, and indicate the necessary changes; assuring the Ambassador, that it was a thing indispensable, and of the last necessity to communicate the contents to the Emperor beforehand.

His Excellency made answer, that he hoped the *Hou-pou* would have the goodness to rectify every thing which might appear amiss, and to
give

give him all the information of which he stood in need; that he placed the utmost confidence in him; that he was free to break the seal of the letter; and that in respect to the Chinese translation made at Batavia, his Excellency was so far from venturing to warrant its fidelity, that he availed himself of the present opportunity to request that a better might be made.

The *Hou-pou* opened the letter, examined the form of it, and promised to have it translated anew. He afterwards proposed to carry the letter away with him, in order to shew it to the *Tsong-tou*, promising to return it to his Excellency by the hands of the merchant *Päonkéqua*, with instructions concerning the alterations that it might be deemed expedient to make.

After this conversation, which lasted at least half an hour, the *Hou-pou* accepted a glass of Cape wine, rose and took his leave; not without telling us it was his intention to set off for *Peking*, and that he hoped to see his Excellency and me at court in the enjoyment of perfect health. I attended him as far as the ship's side, where fresh civilities passed between us. He then set off, after having a present for the Ambassador put on board the *Siam*, consisting of

of several head of cattle, fruit, and other provisions.

As soon as the *Hou-pou* had quitted the ship I also took leave of his Excellency and went to Canton, in order to be ready to receive him at the Factory before dinner; the Ambassador having refused with the greatest politeness the offer which the *Hou-pou* had just made him of coming the following day, with some great *Sampanes*, to take him on shore in state.

I had been but a very little time on shore, when the Ambassador arrived in his boat, accompanied by the Members of the Council, who had remained with him as deputies, and followed by the boats of the three other ships, which had come to anchor on the morning of the same day at *Vampou*. In these boats were the captains of the four ships.

I went, as well as the other members of the Direction, to receive his Excellency on the stairs that go down to the river, and conducted him to the Council Chamber, where I seated him in the President's chair. I then addressed to him a compliment, accompanied by every mark of respect, and the Members of the Council followed
my

my example. His Excellency answered us in a manner suitable to the occasion; and after he had remained seated for a moment, I proposed to conduct him to the apartments destined for his use, to which he agreed. We then walked out in order to sit down to table; the ceremonial of the day being thus brought to a conclusion.

I should have said, that, on the 22d of September, the *Fou-yuen* had sent two Mandarins, with three merchants of Canton, on board of the Siam, to visit the Ambassador on his part and on that of the *Tjong-tou*, who happened not to be at Canton at that time, and to express to him the satisfaction which his coming occasioned in the Empire of China.

It was on the 24th that the *Tjong-tou* returned from a journey which he had made to the province of *Quang-fé*, which, like that of *Quang-tong*, was subject to his administration; but the *Fou-yuen* being obliged to set off the same day, and to go and examine the damages occasioned by an inundation, at the distance of two or three days journey, his unforeseen absence determined the *Tjong-tou* to send, on the following day, two principal Mandarins to wait upon the Ambassador,

fador, and to tell him, that he was prevented by that circumstance from giving him an audience.

25th. On the 25th the *Tsong-tou* sent his Excellency two oxen, four sheep, four hogs, ten geese, ten ducks, ten fowls, two small chests of *Souchong* tea of twenty-five *cati's* each (thirty-one pounds and a quarter troy weight); two barrels of *red candles*; and sixteen half bags of rice.

26th. The agents of the foreign nations, who had already returned from *Macao* to Canton, having come to pay the Ambassador their compliments of congratulation on his arrival, his Excellency, on the 26th, returned a visit to each of them individually.

The same day the *Sub-Nainhenyen* came to see the Ambassador, and furnished him with a guard of four soldiers, who had directions to keep good order among the Chinese, before the Factory, during his Excellency's stay.

The *Fou-yuen* having returned from his journey at the close of the day, the next evening the merchant *Paonkéqua*, second Chief or Director of the Company of *Cohangists*, came to announce,

that, at the breaking up of a conference of the *Tsing-tou*, the *Fou-yuen*, and the *Hou-pou*, these Mandarins had ordered him to make a translation of the letter addressed by the Commissaries General of India to the Emperor. The consequence was, that almost immediately afterwards, *Pouqua* and *Pouayua*, members of the *Cohang*, as well as the first clerk of *Kiouan*, another member of that Company, joined *Päoukequa* in my apartment, in order to translate the letter, which I dictated to them in English, into the Chinese tongue. It was past midnight before our work was at an end.

28th. On the 28th in the afternoon another Mandarin was sent to ask me for an explanation of some expressions that occurred in the letter.

As to the presents that were to be offered to the Emperor in the name of the Dutch Nation, the Ambassador acquainted the *Hou-pou*, at the time of the visit paid him by that Mandarin on board of the *Siam*, that he had only brought a few articles, because he had been informed that others were to be met with at Canton. He therefore begged the *Hou-pou* to have the goodness to assist him in this respect by pointing out the things he might think best calculated to
please

please his Imperial Majesty ; and this the Mandarin promised to do. Accordingly, after the *Tsong-tou*, the *Fou-yuen*, and the *Hou-pou* had had a consultation, the latter charged *Paonkéqua* to deliver to the Ambassador a list of twenty-four articles, which we should be at liberty to purchase, and of which it was probable the price would not exceed the sum the Commissaire General of Batavia had fixed as the value of the presents.

As this happened to be the time of an annual ceremony which gives to the *Tsong-tou*, and the other Mandarins of the first rank a great deal of occupation for several days together, *viz.* the examination of the students, and the ceremonial of the inscription of the names of those who deserve to be put upon the list of candidates for a degree; the audience which he was to give to the Ambassador was again deferred.

In the mean time the purposed changes in the letter destined for his Imperial Majesty were made ; and as a great deal of astonishment had been shewn at its being written upon paper, instead of being upon parchment, like the Ambassador's commission, I took, in order to remedy this inconvenience, a large skin of parchment

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upon

upon which I had a border painted of flowers in festoons and lions rampant. I then pasted the letter upon the parchment, and by these means the objection was removed.

Another difficulty remained, which was, that it was necessary that the letter should be put into a purse of yellow fatin, with a dragon embroidered upon it in gold; and that afterwards the purse should be inclosed in a box gilt all over, having in like manner a dragon in relief. I fulfilled all this part of the ceremonial likewise, so that the principal business of the Embassy was properly provided for; the letter having been put into the purse, together with a list, written upon yellow fatin, of the presents that were to be offered to the Emperor.

October. On the 3d of October a visit was paid to his Excellency by the four principal Mandarins of the Regency of Canton, sent by the *Tsong-tou*, viz. the *Pau-tchong-tsu*, or Grand Treasurer; the *On-tcha-tsu*, or Chief Justice; the *Gim-ouan-tsu*, or Superintendant of the Imperial Magazines of Salt; and the *Leong-tau*, or First Inspector of the Magazines of Rice. When the usual compliments were over, these four Mandarins asked, in the name of the *Tsong-tou*,
why

why a Chinese translation had been added at Batavia to the letter for the Emperor; why our *Monarch* had not signed the letter; and why there was only the seal of the Dutch East India Company, without that of the four *Mandarins* (the four Commissaries General) by whom it was signed, being affixed to it.

By means of an interpreter, the Ambassador gave them in detail every explanation which they could desire. They appeared satisfied, and after having drunk a cup of tea, and a glass of wine, took their leave.

It must necessarily appear singular to the reader, that the *Tsong-tou* should exhibit so much suspicion in regard to an Embassy, of which the idea had originated with himself, and that he should appear to seek information concerning things, of which it was impossible for him to be ignorant. But the *Tsong-tou* would have been a bungling politician if he had not affected ignorance, and if he had not sought to give to an Embassy, secretly concerted with himself, the appearance of an homage voluntarily paid to the Emperor. It may also be observed, that ill-intentioned people had taken a pleasure in circulating falsities, with a view of thwarting the project. The *Tsong-tou*



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was therefore obliged to act with the greatest circumspection, lest he should give umbrage to the other Mandarins.

The jealousy and hatred of certain Europeans had instigated several Chinese merchants to insinuate that the Embassy was not sent by the Chief of the Dutch nation; that this Chief was not a King; and that the Ambassador was not a great Mandarin. They had also spread several other disadvantageous reports. It was very fortunate for us, that the Regency of Canton entertained such an opinion of the Dutch national character, and of the peaceful and sedate conduct of the individuals of our nation, as insured the success of an Embassy which had been so indutritiously traduced.

The *Tjong-ton* continued to shew a great deal of attention to the Ambassador. He sent, every two or three days, a Mandarin to my house, with directions to ask after the health of his Excellency, and to enquire if he was in want of any thing, in order that it might be procured.

The Chinese translation of the letter that had been made by the merchants whom I have named above, and to whom I had dictated it in

English, was afterwards put by the *Tsong-tou*, into the hands of the *Pau-tchong-tsu* and the *On-tcha-tsu*, in order that they might give it an elegance of language, and a stile sufficiently dignified to render it worthy of the eyes of the Emperor; while I, on my part, was collecting the articles intended as presents, so that every thing might be ready upon the first demand.

10th. On the 10th, the *Hou-pou*, the *On-tcha-tsu*, and four or five of the principal Mandarins, went to Mr. Beale's, to see the pieces of mechanism, of which he had a great number in his warehouse to sell. Thence they went to visit the Ambassador; and to enquire after his health. The *Hou-pou* told his Excellency, that in a short time the Court of *Pe-king* would be acquainted with his arrival, and that he might rest assured that every thing would be prepared for his departure, as soon as an answer should be received from the Court. On the following day, the *Taytou*, or General of the Troops of the Province of *Quang-ton*, paid a visit to the Ambassador, to congratulate him on his arrival; and the same day the merchant *Paonkéqua* came to inform his Excellency, that the *Tsong-tou* would, on the 13th, grant both his Excellency and me a public audience, destined for the reception of the letter

that we had to deliver to his Highness (the *Tsong-tou*) on the part of the Commissaries General of the Dutch East-India Company. He added, that this opportunity would be taken, for us to make the salute of honour due to his Imperial Majesty, and that the ceremony would end with an imperial dinner, where we were to be regaled with all the persons belonging to the Direction in the garden of *Lopqua*; and that plays, and other shows, were to be exhibited there for our amusement.

13th. We kept ourselves in readiness accordingly. *Paonkéqua*, and a *Lingua*, (interpreter) came to take us on the morning of the 13th, and a handsome *Sampane* landed us on the other side of the river, opposite to the Factories and the city of Canton, in the suburb called *Honan*. Thence we were conducted to the Pagoda, *Hauy-tsong-tsi**, where we found several hundreds of Chinese soldiers under arms, and lining the road through which we were to pass, for more than two hundred yards. The Ambassador's body guards were placed at their head.

* This is the same in which the English Ambassador, Lord Macartney, was received by the *Tsong-tou*, and the other principal Mandarins, on his return from *P'e-king*. (*Fr. Ed.*)

At the entrance of the pagoda, a large double tent was pitched, covering on one side the imperial dinner, and on the other, that is to say, on the Eastern, a kind of saloon furnished with carpets and with chairs for the Mandarins, the Ambassador, and myself. These seats, placed nearly in a half circle, were so disposed that the *Tsong-tou*, the *Fou-yuen*, and the *Hou-pou* were to fill the three that stood as it were in the centre, and that his Excellency and I were to be at a small distance to their right, and turned a little towards them; while on their left were four seats intended for the *Pan-tcheng-tsu*, the *On-tcha-tsu*, the *Gim-ouan-tsu*, and the *Leong-tan*.

When his Excellency and I approached the pagoda, we found the *Tsong-tou*, and the six other Mandarins, on the right of the road. We were desired to pass before them, and were conducted to a kind of altar, hung with yellow, on which was a vase with perfumes burning in it, and a board (*Chap*) on which the names and titles of the Emperor were inscribed in letters of gold. Round the back of the altar was a yellow screen.

Two cushions were laid upon the ground for us, and we were told to do the salute of honour

to the Emperor. We performed this ceremony according to the Chinese custom. It consists in kneeling down three times; in saluting at each prostration, by bowing the head three times to the ground; and in rising quite up after each third inclination of the head, in order to kneel down anew. All these motions are directed by the voice of a Mandarin, who measures the time by regular intervals, in like manner as an officer exercising troops.

When we had done, the Viceroy, and the other Mandarins, came up to his Excellency and me, and addressed to us the most friendly congratulations. We were then conducted to that part of the tent where the chairs were placed, and took our seats in the order indicated above. The *Tsong-tou* sat down first, and then the Ambassador put on his hat.

The Viceroy having asked a few questions concerning the motive of the Embassy, and received polite answers, the Ambassador presented the letter to him, with which he had been charged by the Commissaries General of Batavia. He opened it, read with attention the Chinese translation that accompanied it, and assured his Excellency that he would do every thing in his power
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to make the *Pe-king* journey as agreeable to him as he could wish.

His Highness then asked the Ambassador if he should be ready to set off without delay, in case his Imperial Majesty should desire his arrival at Court before the end of the present Chinese year, and if it would be possible for him to leave Canton in a month, or thereabout. The Ambassador answered in the affirmative, and said that he should be ready to undertake the journey on the first order from the Emperor; which appeared to give the *Tsong-tou* much satisfaction.

A bowl of soup was then served up, with bird's nests, and afterwards a dish of tea; after which the Mandarins having risen; and we also, we followed them anew to the altar, where we repeated, in concert with them, the grand salute of honour to the Emperor.

This ceremony being performed, the *Tsong-tou* came towards us, and invited us to the imperial dinner. We answered him in terms expressive of our gratitude. He then ordered two Mandarins to conduct us to the garden of *Lopqua*, separated from the Temple, or Pagoda, only by a wall; to give us a good reception, and to procure

us every possible amusement in their power. We now took leave of his Highness and the other Mandarins, in order to follow our conductors to the garden, whither all the dinner that had been prepared on one of the sides of the tent was conveyed, and where we found the Members of our establishment, and the Chinese merchants, come to partake of the entertainment, which lasted till eleven o'clock at night. We then returned to the Factory.

14th. The English Supercargoes, who had come back from Macao several days before, but who had not yet visited the Ambassador, waited upon him in a body, the day after he had his public audience of the Viceroy; and two days after his Excellency went to see each of those gentlemen individually.

The Commissaries General, having sent by another ship a duplicate of the letter they had written to his Imperial Majesty, that in case of any accident happening to the Ambassador the object of his mission might be fulfilled by me, had addressed to me in consequence a commission, in which they appointed me to the survivorship of the Embassy, and gave me in that case his Excellency's character, rank, and titles. The *Tjing-ton* thought

thought proper to send this duplicate to *Pe-king* by an express, after having made the same changes in it as in the original; which remained with the Ambassador, in order that he might deliver it in person. The courier was dispatched on the 14th of October in the evening, with directions to travel fifty leagues (five hundred *lis*) a day, that he might arrive at *Pe-king* at the end of twelve days. He was also charged with a letter from the *Tsong-tou* to the Prime Minister, which, according to the report of *Pouayqua* who had read it, and who mentioned it to me, was highly favourable to our mission.

15th. The following day, *Paonkéqua* came in the name of the *Tsong-tou*; to request the Ambassador to prepare to set off within a month, because it was very probable that his Excellency would be sent for to *Pe-king* before the festival of the new year (which corresponds with the 21st of January of the European calendar), and because the answer of the Court would arrive within that space of time.

16th. The Ambassador, who had expressed to *Paonkéqua* his desire to go into the city that he might there present his respects to the *Tsong-tou*, to the *Fou-yuen*, and to the *Hou-pou*, received a favourable answer through the medium of the
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same merchant, with this singular restriction on the part of the Viceroy: that he observed to his Excellency, that he was not permitted by the usages of China to receive him in his palace, nor with as much respect as he deserved, or as he (the *Tsong-tou*) should be happy to shew him; and that he therefore trusted, as this could not be done without infringing on the laws and customs of the country, that the Ambassador would not take it ill if he sent an excuse by one of his Mandarins to the gate of the palace, especially as the year before he had treated the English Ambassador, (Lord Macartney) in the same way,

19th. His Excellency conformed to this etiquette, and on the following day we went together to pay the intended visits. We were carried by four bearers (*coulis*), and the interpreter, who accompanied us, delivered our visiting cards at the gates of the palaces. An inferior Mandarin came out, and in the name of his Chief signified the high sense he entertained of the trouble the Ambassador had taken.

Assisted by the Chinese *Cohangist* merchants, I collected all the presents intended for the Emperor, the First Minister of State, and the other Mandarins of the Court, in order that the whole might be properly packed up, and ready for removal.

moval. At the same time, the ships of the Company, that came with the Ambassador, were loaded with all possible dispatch, that their return to Europe might not be delayed.

November. On the 9th of November, the *Tsong-tou* sent a Mandarin to request his Excellency to hold himself in readiness to set off in thirteen days, the 23d being fixed for his departure.

Although this was in some sort a delay of eight days, since it had at first been settled on the 14th of October, that we were to set out a month after, it appeared impossible to his Excellency to be ready by that time. But I declared, that as to every thing that related to the loading of the vessels for Europe, it would be terminated before, and consequently that little or nothing remained to be done to expedite their sailing. I even undertook to provide every thing that might be necessary, particularly for the journey of the Embassy; and I intreated his Excellency to use all possible brevity in the dispatches he intended to send to Batavia, as he had such forcible reasons to assign as an excuse; since it appeared by calculation that our departure could not be delayed a single moment, if we wished to arrive

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at *Pe-king* by New Year's Day. The examination of all these possibilities, and *Paonkéqua's* urgent request that we would gratify the *Tsong-tou*, at last induced his Excellency to come to a resolution to set off on the 22d, and every effort was made to fulfil his promise.

10th. On the 10th of November, the English Supercargoes gave his Excellency a splendid entertainment.

11th. On the 11th most of the presents were packed up, in order that by being sent off before us, they might put us to no inconvenience on the road. Gilt frames were put to the four large mirrors, and they were carefully placed each in a separate chest. A machine was then made for each chest, so that the glass might be carried, and put upon the ground always on one side, and that the *coulis*, when inclined to rest themselves, might expose it to no risk.

On the 13th of November, at a very early hour of the morning, *Paonkéqua* was sent by the *Tsong-tou* to tell the Ambassador that the Emperor's answer had arrived at midnight, and that it was couched in very favourable terms; that his Imperial Majesty wished the Ambassador to repair

to *Pe-king* before New Year's Day, in order to shew him all the pomp of the Court on that solemn festival; and to present him to all the assembled Princes and Grandees of his Empire; as also that his Excellency might partake of the feasts and diversions of the Court. *Paonkéqua* added, that his Imperial Majesty desired the Ambassador to bring with him two Europeans versed in the Chinese tongue, who might, upon occasion, serve as interpreters.

Although no Europeans at Canton were completely masters of the Chinese language, it was resolved nevertheless to conform as far as possible to the Emperor's wish. His Excellency determined in consequence to propose Messieurs Agie and de Guignes, two Frenchmen, and charged *Paonkéqua* to intimate the same to the *Tsong-tou*.

In the afternoon, the *Pau-tchong-tsu*, the *On-tcha-tsu*, and several Mandarins went to inspect the pieces of mechanism intended for the Emperor, previously to their being packed up, as well as the other valuable articles. From thence they proceeded to congratulate the Ambassador upon his Imperial Majesty's favourable answer; and endeavoured to prevail on his Excellency to

hasten his departure, were it but a single day, in order that he might be at *Pe-king* by the time mentioned in the letter, which appeared to be the 10th of January. As it was really impossible to use greater dispatch than that we were making, his Excellency confined his answer to an assurance that he would set off on the 22d. With this engagement the Mandarins were at last satisfied, and took their leave.

14th. On the following day, the 14th, the Mandarin, appointed to be our third conductor, made his appearance, accompanied by *Paonkéqua*, who came on the part of the Viceroy, to read and extol the Emperor's answer to the Ambassador, and to declare that on some future day he would be furnished with a copy. Having already indicated the substance of this letter, I shall here avoid a needless repetition.

This same Mandarin came afterwards to my residence with *Paonkéqua*, to know what provisions we should have a daily occasion for during the journey, that he might give orders to have them prepared, and that we might be in want of nothing. As this day was one of those which the Chinese think propitious to all undertakings, they began to embark the presents intended for
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his Imperial Majesty on board of transport barges.

16th. The Danish, Swedish, and Spanish Supercargoes, gave successive farewell entertainments to his Excellency and his suite, on the 16th, 17th, and 18th of November.

17th. On the 17th, the Mandarins, who were our two first conductors, came also to pay their compliments to the Ambassador and me: they were both of the rank of the blue *button*. On the evening of the same day, *Paonkéqua* came on the part of the *Tsong-tou*, to inform us that his Excellency and I should have on the twentieth, in the Pagoda of *Honan*, our formal audience of leave of the Viceroy, and of the other Mandarins of the Regency; and that a copy would then be given us of the letter of his Imperial Majesty. I communicated all these particulars to the Ambassador.

18th. On the 18th, the two Frenchmen, Messieurs Agie and de Guignes, went into town to present themselves to the *Tsong-tou*, in order to give him proofs of their knowledge of the Chinese language; and succeeded sufficiently well to obtain his approbation of their appointment.

19th.

19th. On the 19th, in the evening, the bulky presents were dispatched for *Pe-king*, on board of six *Sampanes*, under the care of a principal Mandarin of the white button, and of three other Mandarins of the gilt button.

20th. On the day fixed for the audience of leave, the Ambassador and I went on board a passage vessel, and waited on the other side of the river, at *Honan*, for the arrival of the Vice-roy till eleven o'clock, when we went on shore. We there found soldiers drawn up in two lines, in the square before the Pagoda, as at the first audience. The tent and all the other arrangements were the same. The *Tsong-tou* and the rest of the Mandarins, among whom was a different *Hou-pou* from him we had seen on the former occasion, were also waiting for us on the road. They gave us a kind reception, and conducted us to the place where seats were prepared. Every one having taken his place, the *Tsong-tou* told us that he was much concerned that the journey to Court could not be so agreeable to us as he could have wished, since it was to be performed at the coldest season of the year; that he had taken care to have every thing so arranged, as to make travelling as convenient and pleasant to us as possible; and that he thought we were provided
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with a sufficiency of furs to defend us from the cold. We thanked his Highness, through the medium of the interpreter, for his kind attention, and as to the cold, we answered that we were accustomed to it in our own country, where the winters were at least as severe as they could be at *Pe-king*.

The *Tjong-ton* next enquired if we were ready to set off, and upon our answer in the affirmative, testified a great deal of satisfaction.

At the same moment, little porringers were handed round, with a very agreeable soup made of a small kind of pease, and afterwards cups of tea. Then, at the sound of a *gongon*, which was at the entrance of the Pagoda, the Viceroy, and other Mandarins all rose, and we did the same. They placed themselves on the right of the road, and we took the left side, standing opposite to one another. When the procession, which was advancing, came near us, I perceived that it was the letter of the Emperor, carried by eight *Conlis* in the Imperial livery, upon a kind of hand-barrow, preceded by twenty servants in the same livery. There was also a portable altar, on which was placed a vase with burning incense.

At the moment when the Emperor's letter, which was rolled up in a cover of yellow silk, passed before us, all the Mandarins knelt down. We followed their example, and did not rise till they did. The letter being now brought to the Imperial altar, a Mandarin took the case or cover which contained it from off the little handbarrow, and laid it upon the altar; then another Mandarin, of superior rank, went and took the scroll from the altar, and, after having elevated it with both his hands, delivered it to the *Tsong-ton*, who had the silk covering taken off, and, after unrolling it, sent it to a Mandarin of inferior rank. The latter read it, keeping it in an elevated position, and our interpreter explained it, paragraph by paragraph.

While this lasted the Ambassador and I were on our knees, and as soon as it was over we performed the ceremony of adoration in honour of the Emperor, after which we arose. The Viceroy, and the six other Mandarins, then came to congratulate us, wishing us success and the good graces of his Imperial Majesty. We expressed a high sense of the honour done us.

The Imperial repast was next offered us. It was served up with still more magnificence than the
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the first time, and gave us a new occasion to testify our gratitude. The *Tsong-tou* afterwards charged two Mandarins to escort us to the garden of *Lopqua*, to give us a kind welcome there, and to beg us to divert ourselves. Then turning towards the Ambassador and me, he told us that he would gladly accompany us thither, but that he was sure that his presence would rather impose a constraint upon the company assembled there than give them pleasure. He therefore took leave of us, wishing us a good journey, as did the other Mandarins who attended him, and who told us that they hoped we should find his Imperial Majesty in the enjoyment of perfect health. After having returned compliments for compliments, we followed our two conductors to the garden of *Lopqua*, whither the dinner was brought as before, and where we were joined by the merchants and all the persons of our Direction. The repast was magnificent, and while we were at table theatrical pieces, and tumbling, and other feats of activity, were performed. It was five o'clock in the evening before we got back to the Factory.

21st. On the following day, November the 21st, at eleven in the morning, the Council of Commerce assembled, under the Presi-

dency of the Ambassador. Having, in consequence of my own request, obtained permission from the Directors of the Dutch East India Company to resign my employ, because I wished to return to my native country, I installed with all due formality R. J. Dozy, Supercargo, in my place of Chief of the Factory; and this the more willingly, because, as I had completed the loading of the four ships, nothing remained but to expedite their sailing, which could be done in my absence without the smallest inconvenience. I then took leave of the Council as far as related to my functions of Chief in the service of the Dutch East India Company.

This formality being over, I accompanied the Ambassador in his visits to take leave of the Representatives of all the foreign nations. The same day the Supercargo, who had just been appointed to fill my place, gave a farewell dinner to his Excellency, and to the persons who were to be of the *Pe-king* journey. A great part of the Europeans at Canton were also present. At the same time all the provisions and heavy baggage were put on board, in order that nothing might delay our departure on the following day.

22d. On

22d. On the 22d of November, at an early hour of the morning, I had our beds and the rest of our baggage embarked, and at half past twelve the Ambassador quitted the Factory to go on board a pleasure *Sampane*. At the very moment of our departure, *Paonkéqua* delivered to his Excellency, in the name of the *Tsong-tou*, a copy of the Imperial letter, in a case covered with yellow silk. We were escorted by all the persons belonging to the Dutch Company, and by the Spanish Chief *Agote*, as far as *Faa-ti*, or the *Gardens of Flowers*, a place situated at a league (ten *li*) from the city of Canton, and where we found all the Dutch merchants, and five of the Chinese *Cohangist* traders. We made a stop there to give time to the other vessels to come up, and in the mean while went to visit several gardens or nurseries, where we remarked a number of flowers and uncommon plants, the sight of which fully repaid the trifling trouble the sight of them had cost us.

At two o'clock the gentlemen of the Direction and the merchants took leave of us, and returned to Canton, after having wished us a pleasant journey. We dined at the same place, and then each of us went to occupy his respec-

tive *Sampane*. At four o'clock we set off. The flotilla consisted of more than thirty vessels, on board of the greater part of which were the Mandarins who accompanied us, and their retinue; for we had only asked for twelve for the Ambassador and his suite.

The Embassy, and the persons attached to it, consisted of the following individuals, *viz.*

M. ISAAC TITZING, Counsellor in Ordinary of the Dutch East India Company, Ambassador.

ANDREW EVERARD VAN-BRAAM HOUCK-GEEST, heretofore Chief of the Direction of the Dutch East India Company in China, second in the Embassy, with a commission of Ambassador in survivorship.

REINIER DOZY, Secretary to the Embassy.

J. H. BLETTERMAN, and J. A. VAN BRAAM, Members of the Council of Commerce of the Dutch Direction in China; the former as physician, the latter as companion to the second person in the Embassy.

Messieurs AGIE and DE GUIGNES, both Frenchmen, in quality of Interpreters.

H. C. PETIT-

H. C. PETIT-PIERRE, a Swiss Mechanist.

A private Secretary of the Ambassador.

Two Maitres d'Hôtel.

A European servant.

Two Malay servants.

And, lastly, the body guard of the Ambassador, consisting of a serjeant, a drummer, a fifer, and nine soldiers.

To conduct us we had three Mandarins of distinction. The first, called *Vang-ta-loyé*, wore the dark blue button, and was versed in political matters; the second, named *Ming-ta-loyé*, wore the blue transparent button, and was a military man; the third, called *Sau-ta-loyé*, was of the white transparent button, and a great Mandarin of letters: each of them had under his command several inferior Mandarins carrying gold sticks. The military Mandarin was a Tartar, and the two others were Chinese.

[It seems to me more proper and more useful to begin from this moment to give my recital in form of a Journal, in order that every thing being classed according to the order and time in which it occurred, I may avoid all sort of confusion.]

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After having quitted *Faa-ti*, or the Nurseries, we proceeded first in a southern direction for two hours, then to the westward, and at last to the north west. We passed, during the night, the celebrated city of *Fo-chan*, of which we were consequently unable to form any idea. As great a trade is carried on there as at Canton itself, and in extent it is not less considerable than that city.

November. On the 23d of November, at eight o'clock in the morning, we passed by *Tsay-nam*, a place of some consequence, very agreeably situated on the banks of the river; and at nine o'clock we arrived at *San-cheuye-hing-tany*, at a quarter of a league's distance from the city of *San-cheuye-chen*. We stopped at *San-cheuye-hing-tany* to breakfast and take in provisions. While our vessels were passing before the latter place the garrison of *San-cheuye-chen* came and drew up in a line upon the quay.

I went on shore, and perceiving the city of *San-cheuye-chen* situated in a valley at a little distance from the water side, I directed my solitary steps towards it. When I came to the gate, a centinel gave me to understand that I could not
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be admitted. But making him comprehend in my turn, with all the politeness I was master of, that he had no reason for fear, I took him by the arm, and desired him by signs to accompany me. To this he consented; and I walked through several streets, and even contrived to find out the palace of the Mandarins. But I had only a rapid glance of it and returned to the vessel immediately afterwards.

San-cheue-chen, seen either from without or within, appears a very ancient place; the houses being old, low, and crazy. Most of them are shops of a very mean kind, in which eatables are exposed to sale; and the streets, though paved with broad stones, are in very bad condition. As for the situation of the city it is agreeable enough, being surrounded by fruitful fields of rice. At about half a league (five *li*) to the east of the city, in the midst of meadows, and upon a hill of small elevation, is an octagonal tower nine stories high; a kind of edifice by no means uncommon among the Chinese. After having received refreshments and provisions for four-and-twenty hours, we proceeded on our way at eleven in the morning. In the evening we passed by the village of *Af-fany-tsany*, situated
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upon the banks of the river, and continued, during the most part of the night, to be tracked up the river by *Coulis*, in consequence of the current being directly contrary.

24th. A strong northerly wind made the tracking of our boats a very laborious task, and as it often drove us towards one of the banks, we made but little progress.

To the westward was a long chain of mountains of considerable elevation called *Chac-cok-hu*, upon the north side of which a tower has been constructed five stories high.

The river is here in general shallow and interspersed with many banks of sand. Its eastern side is of argillaceous earth, mixed with beds or *strata* of a sandy soil. In all this district great quantities of wheat and other corn are cultivated; but the elevation of the land hinders it from being proper for the production of rice. All along the river we could still perceive the marks of the ravages occasioned by an inundation which took place during the preceding spring in this as well as several other places. Towards the middle of the day we passed by the village
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Tay-in-tsan, at no great distance from a military post, the soldiers of which turned out at our approach. The environs of all the navigable rivers, and all the highways throughout the whole extent of the empire, have similar guard-houses erected at a league (ten *li*) distance from one another. The guard in general consists of an officer and ten men.

In China it is not uncommon to see whole fields sown with buck wheat. We have this day remarked several, in which the plant is covered with flowers, and some in which the seed is even beginning to ripen; a thing which we had yesterday also occasion to observe. I was the more astonished to perceive this kind of grain growing, as I had never seen any at Canton; as I did not even suspect that it existed in China; and as I was consequently far from thinking that such considerable spaces were appropriated to its culture. The sugar plantations are also very numerous.

Towards the evening we went ashore to take a walk and visit a sugar mill in the vicinity. We were much struck by the simplicity of its construction.

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This mill has two rollers or cylindrical pieces of wood, which, with two boilers, complete the whole apparatus of the manufactory. The cane is pressed between these two very heavy cylinders, turned by two buffaloes, by means of a long lever to which they are yoked. The juice that runs from the reed is then boiled down in the two coppers, which are let into holes in the ground. As sugar mills exactly similar are in use at Java, it is more than probable that they were first introduced by the Chinese into that island; especially as the greater number belong to persons of that nation, who employ their own countrymen to work them.

About ten in the evening we reached the city of *Tsing-yun-chen*, where we stopped for an hour to take provisions on board, but were prevented by the darkness from seeing any thing of the town. We afterwards continued our journey during the whole of the night.

25th. At the break of day we came to the village of *Pac-miao-san*, situated on the western bank of the river, where we stopped a quarter of an hour to give our people time to breakfast, and then proceeded through the famous pass called *Tsang-nun-hab*, formed by an interval

between two ridges of perpendicular rocks of extreme height. While going along this passage we could scarcely perceive sufficient space for those who pulled the tracking rope. The width of the river is here about seven hundred and fifty toises; and when the current is contrary it requires two hours to clear the passage; because in doing so it is necessary to describe lines and follow directions so tortuous, that they resemble the windings and twistings of a snake. But the aspect on both sides is noble and sublime.

In the midst of this space, to the westward, is a convent named *Fi-lauy-tsi*, so situated that it seems to stick against the mountain's side, amidst the thick shade of surrounding trees. The Bonzes who reside in this place have contrived to make a pretty large kitchen garden by the side of the convent, for the sake of obtaining the necessary supply of vegetables.

At the end of the pass, on the eastern side, is a guard-house called *Pha-cong-hau-chan*, with soldiers stationed in it. There is also a temple of little consequence, and a few houses. The heights that overlook the passage are covered with trees.

During

During the whole day we continued to see a great number of mountains on each side of us ; several of those to the westward being of stupendous height.

The plains were all planted with sugar cane, and during our navigation we saw several mills for the expression of the juice.

In the afternoon we passed by the village of *Tey-kehing-cok*, situated on the western side of the river, which widens at this place, but which at the same time is choked up with large banks of sand. At sun-set we came to another narrow pass, also between two ridges of very rugged and uneven rocks. This passage cost us about half an hour's navigation, after which we saw nothing before us but a very extensive plain, having constantly level ground on both sides of the road, except during the night, when we entered a pass still narrower than the other two. This passage, of such inconsiderable length that a stone might be thrown from one end to the other, is skirted with rocks so lofty and so terribly steep, that they cannot fail to inspire the beholder with a sentiment of fear. This place is called *Ang-yong-hab*.

26th. By break of day we had got beyond the limits of these horrible rocks, to the westward of which, and at the foot of the mountain, is a handsome pagoda. The country then begins to resume a level appearance, particularly to the eastward; but as the land on each side of us, which was steep and lofty, prevented our prospect, curiosity induced me to go on shore at eight o'clock in the morning, and to climb up to the top of the bank, which was thirty or forty feet high, in order to get a view of the surrounding fields. I continued my walk till half past eleven. As far as the eye could reach, it discovered a country admirably well cultivated; which, by its resemblance to the province of Utrecht, re-produced in my mind the delightful idea of my native land. Here was a field covered with wheat, contiguous to another of buckwheat, embellished by its blossom; there a piece of turnips; and then another spot planted with sweet potatoes. An agreeable variety delighted the eye throughout this whole extent of country, where not the smallest space was left without cultivation, and the whole of which composed a most beautiful landscape. The soil was argillaceous though not strong; and if any judgment can be formed of its fertility from the stubbles, it must abound in corn.

We also passed by several brick-kilns situated upon the banks of the river, and perceived in the interior several pretty villages, shaded by bamboos and other trees. I prolonged my little excursion till I came opposite the city of *In-te-chen*, where, upon the eastern side, I found a handsome tower of nine stories, in good preservation, although it appeared very ancient, according, at least, to the indication of the trees growing out of the crevices of its walls, and even upon the very top of it.

On the western side of the river the plains were less extensive. My walk had not yet lasted an hour, when I remarked that the mountains re-appeared upon the bank, where they were terminated by five insulated rocks, of which the most northern, and also the most considerable, was in the form of a sugar loaf when seen from the westward. A little farther on, and precisely at the foot of other rocky mountains, is a village called *Ngo-ci-ouan*, which contains a considerable number of houses, and of which the inhabitants appear to have a subsistence assured them by working the quarries in the neighbouring mountains. By the side of the village is the guard-house called *Yau-ci-chun*, which forms with it the only objects that interrupt the dismal and monotonous

tonous prospect of a ridge of steep mountains, extending from the five rocks that I have just mentioned as far as the city of *In-té-chen*, opposite to which I re-embarked.

The size of that city is not considerable, but the good state of its walls announces a neat and comfortable place: its suburbs, by the river's side, are very extensive. To the north of the city is an insulated rock, covered with very lofty trees, overshadowing a temple, which at this distance makes a magnificent appearance, and seems to be very agreeably situated. It is seen from far, overlooking the city.

At half past three, after leaving *In-té-chen*, we passed by the hamlet *Mi-ou-mi-fang*, and at five o'clock were in front of a village called *V'ong-hou-cong*, where there are several streets consisting altogether of shops filled with every kind of provisions.

Beyond *In-té-chen* the bed of the river is entirely composed of large pebbles. It is very wide at *V'ong-hou-cong*, but interspersed with a variety of sand-banks. Hence we have reason to believe that in the rainy season, when it is still from six to ten feet deep, as old marks indi-

cate, the passage must become extremely dangerous, especially in the rocky places, and in the narrow parts through which we passed the night before.

We set off a little after seven o'clock, the Ambassador having first dispatched a faithful Chinese to Canton, charged with letters for Batavia, which the Company's ships, when on their return to Europe, were to deliver at North Island, in their way through the Straits of Sunda.

We have this day seen one of those fishermen who neither make use of net nor line, but employ birds trained and accustomed to pursue the fish under water. These birds seize their prey and bring it to their master. Whenever it happens that they swallow a small fish or two, the fisherman obliges them to restitution by pressing their crop, and only gives them a few small pieces for their nourishment. This singular mode of fishing is no small proof of the industry of the Chinese, especially when it is known that the invention of it belongs to one of the lower classes of the nation.

It was during the night that we passed by the famous rocks that encircle the temple dedicated
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to the goddesses *Coun-yam*: we had consequently no opportunity of seeing it.

27th. At eight o'clock in the morning we passed the hamlet *Tai-w'ang-t'ang-jan*, where there is a military post. When we had advanced thus far, we perceived behind us a great number of mountains of a singular form, many of which were entirely insulated. We had also on each side of us a constant prospect of a chain of mountains, situated at a distance, which presented them to us in a point of view truly picturesque, and not to be surpassed by any thing of the same kind in any part of the world.

Our voyage was made in the most rapid and hasty manner. It was impossible to behold without astonishment the indefatigable zeal which our sailors manifested night and day, and almost without taking rest, for its farther acceleration. Three times in the four and twenty hours they make a meal, which lasts little more than a quarter of an hour, and get but very little sleep. They do their business nevertheless with vigour, and with a degree of gaiety which in other parts of the world is only to be met with upon parties of pleasure. No being on earth is fitter than the Chinese to endure fatigue, and to

support a long continuance of labour. Provided care be taken to insure him a sufficient refecti^on at stated periods, there is no doubt of his always finding new strength for whatever laborious task he may be required to undertake.

At half past ten we reached *Tan-tchi-ki*, a handsome village standing under the refreshing shade of trees. Upon the opposite bank is an insulated rock of which the eye is unable to measure the elevation, and which stands close to the water's side, as if it had been cut perpendicularly through the middle. The river being very narrow at this part, vessels pass at a small distance from the rock, and the traveller, while gazing on it, finds it difficult to subdue a sentiment of something like fear. At about three parts of the way up towards the summit is a large whitish spot, indicating a hollow, which looks as if produced by forcible means. The Chinese say, that, at an epoch in their annals so remote that all remembrance of it is lost, a great general, named *V'ong-tsau*, when going upon a military expedition shot at the rock, and that his arrow left this impression upon its side. Whatever be its origin, its form and colour are very remarkable.

During

During this day's journey we had a fresh breeze from the south, which enabled us to make use of our sails, and favoured our progress. After dinner we passed by a large village called *Pou-ting-tan*, also full of trees, the shade of which afforded it an agreeable protection from the sun. About two o'clock we reached *Ou-chac*, another large village; and three quarters of an hour afterwards a town called *Mong-li-chen*, the residence of a little Mandarin. Opposite to this, on the other side of the river, is the hamlet called *Cai-tan-san*.

Having here observed that the declivity of the mountain was covered with a regular plantation of a shrub, to which its white blossoms gave a beautiful appearance. I asked what it was, and was told that it produces a nut from which the Chinese extract the oil they burn in their lamps.

At sun-set we came to a part of the river where the current was so strong that it was with the greatest difficulty we were able to stem it. The place situated at this turn of the stream is called *Tchie-can-tan*. We stopped there an hour to refresh; and, having set off again at seven o'clock, continued our journey during the whole of the night.

28th. At eight o'clock in the morning we passed by the town *Cok-con-un-imfau*, where, upon the bank of the river, stands a great Imperial magazine of salt. The building is handsome, and even magnificent. A very large flight of stairs of hewn stone lead up to it from the water.

Soon after we arrived at the city of *Chao-tcheou-fou*, to the south-east of which the river divides into two branches. The one that we followed runs to the north east, while the other takes its course to the westward, after passing to the south of the city. A bridge of boats has been constructed over this latter branch.

Opposite the bifurcation of the river; and in the middle of its bed, is a small elevated island, on which an hexagonal tower is built. Another is seen on the summit of an exceeding high mountain on the western side.

We afterwards coasted along the eastern side of the city, in front of which were about two hundred soldiers drawn up under arms in a single line in the following order: first, a body of archers, whose uniform was a white surtout turned up with red; second, fusileers with
match-lock

match-lock muskets, dressed in red faced with white; third, gladiators carrying targets, wearing blue coats turned up with red. While the Ambassador and I were passing in our vessels by the first part of these troops, they saluted us with three guns, and with three others when we approached the farther extremity. At the place where we stopped a sort of edifice with triumphal arches and a flight of steps had been erected on the banks of the river for our reception.

Here we found ourselves obliged to remove to other vessels, in order to go as far as *Van-hiong-fou*, the river being no longer deep enough for the former ones. At ten o'clock the Ambassador, myself, and the rest of his retinue, went on shore, and repaired to the place prepared for us, where the first Mandarin received us with the greatest marks of distinction; and regaled us with tea.

After having remained there a quarter of an hour we took leave of him and went on board of our new vessels, to which our baggage had been conveyed while we were on shore. As these vessels were smaller by one half than those we had quitted, the number of our flotilla was almost doubled.

The city of *Chao-tcheou-fou* is a little smaller than Canton ; but it may boast of an imperial custom-house, and of a garrison of considerable strength. The necessity of removing goods from great to small vessels, and from small to great, according as they are to be conveyed up or down the stream, occurring at the place where the city is built, it is the centre of a great deal of movement, which gives it a very lively appearance. At *Chao-tcheou-fou*, as well as in the other cities of China, little is seen from without except the ramparts, the houses being very low. The roofs of the temples and of the Mandarin's palaces alone overlook the walls.

Chao-tcheou-fou is not of a regular form. Its rampart makes a curve to the eastward, and the city, when seen from the north, is of an oblong shape. At the north east extremity is another great bridge of boats, near the custom-house or residence of the *Hou-fou*. At the same part are very extensive suburbs, situated without the ramparts, where, on account of the nature of the river, the houses are almost all built upon piles, which gives these suburbs a very singular appearance. At the place where the bridge of boats ends on the opposite bank are other suburbs of considerable extent, and tolerably compact.

compact. The passage over the bridge is safe and much frequented. There are fixed hours of the day for opening it in order to give an issue to the vessels that are going up or down. During these intervals little boats supply the want of a bridge, and satisfy the impatience of those who are desirous of crossing over to the other side without delay.

There stands also to the northward of the city, and at the extremity of a high mountain, a tower which looks very heavy, and appears to be constructed without taste. It is octagonal, and only three stories high.

All our baggage being embarked, and each of us having taken the place assigned him, we set off at two o'clock. After half an hour's navigation we were obliged to stop again on account of a want of hands to track our vessels. As all the other *Sampanes* experienced a like want; we were obliged to wait with patience while the Mandarins were making a levy. But even those means were little efficacious, because the sailors, upon receiving their hire, made off one after another; so that in a few minutes, out of ten which I had for my vessel, no more than four remained. The rest
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even while aiding in the navigation, leaped into little *Sampanes*, and in that manner made their escape.

I was therefore obliged to give orders to cast anchor on the other side of the bridge, which I had already passed, and to remain there till the Mandarin who commanded the rear guard came up. He joined me at half past six, and instantly did every thing in his power to procure me sailors. I was, however, so long delayed, that it was seven o'clock before I was able to proceed. All the other boats had got far a-head, but as they had stopped to take the evening repast, and had waited for me, I overtook them about nine. As soon as supper was over we set off anew.

29th. After having let our people rest from midnight to the dawn of day, we proceeded on our journey, being still pulled on by tracking ropes. We were now, as it were, in a basin; being surrounded by lofty mountains, some of which were of a very extraordinary shape. At seven o'clock we passed the military post called *Ying-faa-con-haa*, built upon the summit of a rock about forty feet high, consisting of a single block of stone. Near this rock the river branches off, having on the
other

other side of the new branch a hamlet composed of a few houses.

The river, which was become serpentine, obliged us to go double the distance we effectively advanced; but a variety of prospects served to enliven our monotonous mode of travelling, and rendered the prolongation of our route less tiresome than it would otherwise have been.

At nine o'clock we passed by *Lun-chan-tong*, and at eleven by the village *P'-hing-hou*, which is sufficiently large to be the residence of a little Mandarin. Between these two places the river makes an elbow, and in the space of seventy-five feet falls fifteen inches, which cost our trackers an infinite deal of exertion.

At one o'clock we passed by a hamlet called *Tsing-son-tsany*, composed of a small number of houses, and at half past three found ourselves opposite *Cay-long*, which is, on the contrary, a place of great extent. Beyond that place the river winds so much, that it seemed to come towards us from the south-south-east.

Proceeding on our journey at the break of day, we passed at half past seven by a village called *Tsany-han-tchun*, which is of considerable magnitude, and contains several handsome houses. Here again we went a great way round, the river taking a turn directly to the south. At nine o'clock we passed by *Man-gan-tchun*, a place containing a vast number of houses, a great many of which are spacious and well built. At half past nine we were off *Chi-hing-cong-hou*, another considerable place, and a dependancy of the city *Chi-hing-chen*, which is situated a league and a half (fifteen *li*) from the banks of the river. A great many vessels stop at *Chi-hing-chen-hau*, in order to embark such goods as are going up and down the river, which from this place constantly diminishes in depth up to *Nan-hiong-fou*. On this account a Mandarin has been stationed there for the maintenance of good order. We changed our sailors, and remained there till half past twelve, when we continued our journey.

At two o'clock we were a-breast of a little habitation made by excavating a rock. The outside has been walled up, spaces having been left for doors and windows. A little farther on
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is the village *Thin-tchip-ki*, consisting of very well built houses.

A great many trees grow upon the neighbouring mountains, which pleased the eye much more than the naked rocks we had hitherto met with.

At half past three we arrived at *Tcéa-than*, a large and handsome village, abounding in cattle. We dined there, and then continued our journey till midnight, when we stopped to take a few hours rest.

December 1st. We set off again at the break of day, and proceeded till abreast of the great village *V'ong-t'haung-san*, where there is a military post. Here I went on shore and took an hour's walk over cultivated fields, some of which were sown with wheat. In the distance were three very extensive places, of which, from the houses, I formed a favourable idea. At seven o'clock I returned to the vessel, leaving, almost opposite to me, upon a branch of the river, a place called *Tcheou-tsany*, which, from the number of houses I perceived, I judged to be of considerable consequence. In general the places that we had seen for the last three or

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four days gave an idea of greater importance than those of the more southern parts in which we had been travelling before.

At eight o'clock we reached *Lip-peing-tchun*, another great village; well situated, and well built; and three quarters of an hour afterwards we came to a pleasant hamlet called *Tsany-tchun*. This hamlet is overshadowed by pines and large bamboos, and derives a great appearance of magnitude from a number of habitations standing separate from one another, and occupying a considerable extent of ground.

Thou-cok, a large village, came in sight at half past ten. Soon after we came to *Cou-lok-hou*, built upon the bank of the river, which is lofty and perpendicular, and lined with vessels loading and unloading the merchandize that is removed out of one into another.

At a quarter past eleven our eyes were again gratified by the sight of *Ngo-tchou-tau-tchun*, a place well situated, where a number of trees and considerable buildings composed a delightful whole.

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The depth of the river now diminished every instant, so that our vessels, which hardly draw more than a foot water, frequently touched ground. At one o'clock we came to *Tsau-yen-thong*, also a place of tolerable magnitude, whence we discovered the mountains which are situated behind *Nam-hing-fu*, and a breast of which we were to pass.

At three o'clock we were off *Pak-ang-tsauy-thong*, a pretty large village of decent appearance. I stopped soon after we had passed it to dine and wait for the vessels that lagged behind. In the mean time I took a walk on shore to a village at a quarter of a league's distance from the river, over which great bamboos threw a refreshing shade. The houses stand detached from each other, and are constructed with a good deal of taste. All the inhabitants were gone to work in the fields, leaving the village to the care of a few old women, and of such of the children as had already attained the age of reason.

The Ambassador's vessel did not overtake us till eight o'clock. We then supped and set off again at half past nine. The number of sand-banks in the river not permitting us to advance
far

far during the night, we were obliged to stop, after having passed a great village called *Sam-long-thong*.

2d. The day was beginning to dawn when our tracking rope was stretched anew. In a few moments we found ourselves opposite the ruins of a tower, of which five stories still remained. After many efforts, occasioned by the shallowness of the river and the number of sand banks, we at last arrived, at eight o'clock, abreast of the city of *Nan-hiong-fou*, which is a considerable place, and makes a very handsome appearance. The garrison was drawn up under arms upon the bank of the river, and the Ambassador was saluted with three guns, as he had been at all the military posts on the way from *Chao-tcheou-fou*. His Excellency, upon landing with his retinue, was received by the first Mandarin of the city in a large and handsome edifice, built on purpose for the reception of the grandees of the Chinese empire when travelling through the country.

Every thing having been prepared that was necessary for the continuance of our journey over the mountains *Moiling-chan*, we took leave of the Mandarin, who treated us on our departure with a dish of tea. We then got into

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our palanquins, and set off at a quarter past ten.

In these vehicles we passed through several streets in *Nan-hiong-fou*. They are not wide, but the pavement is pretty good. As all the houses are shops, we may naturally conclude that it is a very commercial city. I remarked in the streets several exceedingly ancient triumphal arches built of stone, and called in China *Pay-fong*.

On leaving the city we met with two other triumphal arches, between which the soldiers were drawn up in two lines, and at each extremity of those lines the Ambassador was again saluted with three guns. We came afterwards to a large plain, where most of us got out of our palanquins, rather chusing to walk on foot for a couple of hours, as the road was excellent, and the country afforded us a most delightful prospect. We were, however, only surrounded by fields, which, owing to the season, were entirely naked.

We next passed by *Pau-tching-un*, an extensive place, which might even pass for a little city, and which contains a great number of houses. Thence we successively came to two vil-

lages called *Cong-lau-thong* and *Saa-cheue-thong*, in our way to *Tsong-sam-thong*, where we stopped and dined.

At half after four we continued our journey, and, at a great distance from our point of departure, passed by the city of *Moiling-chun*, whence we proceeded to the foot of the mountain.

The road by which that mountain is crossed is entirely paved with hewn stones, as is also the whole of the highway between the two cities of *Nan-hiong-fou* and *Nan-ngan-fou*, in order to facilitate the constant conveyance of goods which is going on between them without intermission during the whole year. The road over the mountain is carried through an interval between two ridges, and every now and then forms an angle, zig-zag cuts having been made on purpose to take off from the steepness of the ascent.

At half past five we reached the highest point of the gorge of the mountain, where, at a small distance from the road, is a temple surrounded by rocks, while other rocks serve it as a foundation. This temple is dedicated to the great philosopher *Kong-fou-tse* or Confucius. We made a halt there with the intention of examining

mining it; but were only able to take a rapid glance, because it was too late for us completely to satisfy our desire.

After proceeding a very small distance beyond this monument, we came to the gate that marks the division of the provinces of *Quang-tong*, and *Kiang-si*. It is built in an interval between the rocks, where there is also a military post, with a strong garrison, to observe what is passing on the Canton side.

Scarcely had we quitted this gate, when we were most agreeably surpris'd first by perceiving the magnificent spectacle of the vast plain that begins at the foot of the mountain we were about to descend, and then by our prodigious elevation above it. The road in some places inclines no less than forty-five degrees, and runs along the edge of a precipice, descending perpendicularly into an unfathomable abyss full of sharp-pointed rocks.

In order that we might pass along this road without accident, the officer of the guard manifested his kind attention by giving the Ambassador's palanquin and mine an escort of soldiers, eight of whom went by the side of each of us, to

aid and assist the *Coulis* in case of their stumbling in so difficult a pass. The other persons attached to the Embassy descended the mountain on horseback, and consequently out-travelled us a good deal. Environed by precautions, we arrived both speedily and happily at the foot of the mountain, where torches were lighted on account of the night, which began already to steal the surrounding objects from our sight. By the assistance of their light we continued our journey, passing through several villages or hamlets in the plain, till at eight o'clock we were carried outside of the ramparts, as far as the northern suburbs of *Nam-gang-fu*.

The hotel prepared for us stands by the side of that of the *Hou-pou*, at a small distance from the place, where it is customary to alight. It is a house of tolerable appearance. We rested there in the best way we were able, but not without feeling the want of our beds. Our baggage was so tardily conveyed by the *Coulis*, that it was not till nine o'clock of the following morning that the whole was got together.

As every thing sent from the other provinces to *Quang-tong*, and from *Quang-tong* to the other provinces, passes this way, and is conveyed by

means of *Coulis*, a great number of them are constantly upon the road, transporting chests of tea, porcelain, raw silk, pieces of *nam-king*, tobacco, oil, and other merchandize, from *Nan-hiong-fou* to *Nan-ngan-fou*, and from *Nan-ngan-fou* to *Nan-hiong-fou*. To preserve these commodities from the accidents they might meet with, and from the damage the rain might do to some of them, very large huts and sheds to shelter them have been erected at convenient distances. Innumerable inns or public houses for travellers, and *Coulis* are also to be met with all along the road, except in the steep declivities of the mountains. Every one is sure of finding there a repast to his taste, and the means of guarding against that want of aliment which the Chinese are perhaps as little able to endure as any other nation whatever.

3d. At an early hour of the morning of December the 3d, I went to inspect the vessels destined for our conveyance. I found them very clean, and tolerably well fitted up. Casting my eyes from the banks of the river over the whole length of the suburbs, I judged them to be of considerable extent, and was by no means displeased with their appearance. Our boats were opposite the stairs of the custom-house, which

is an edifice of magnificent appearance, and has a spacious square in front of it, paved with pebbles like those of Europe. The streets are paved in the same manner. The place of residence, or palace of the *Hou-pou*, which appears solidly built, and is surrounded with a handsome wall, being situated, as well as the square, upon the bank of the river, presents a very noble object to the eye.

Near to the custom-house, and to the northward, is a mountain of considerable elevation, with a heavy tower, six stories high, on its summit. The form of the tower is that of a truncated cone, the section being made in such a way, that when seen from below the tower appears to hang over to one side. On the other side of the river, facing the mountain, is another, the top of which also supports a tower. This is also of seven stories, and is of a form more agreeable, and more consonant with the prevailing taste of Chinese architecture.

All our trunks and baggage being at length arrived at *Nan-ngan-sou*, they were immediately put on board our boats, and as this was not accomplished till the afternoon, we dined again at our lodgings. Every thing being at last arranged,

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our third conductor called for us at a quarter past five, and accompanied his Excellency to his *Sampane*, whither our first conductor also came to pay him a visit.

We quitted the banks of the river, favoured by a current which drove us on with great rapidity, and continued our journey all the night, guided by the propitious beams of the moon.

I was soon convinced that it is often more disadvantageous to go with the stream than to contend against it, because in the former case it is difficult to prevent the *Sampanes* from driving upon the rocks, which sometimes occasions a great deal of damage, particularly when the rainy season, by swelling the rivers, renders their course both more rapid and more dangerous.

4th. At a quarter past seven in the morning we passed a place situated on the banks of the river, and of pleasing appearance, called *Sau-chan-tong*. At nine o'clock, or thereabout, we were near a large tower of seven stories erected on the summit of a lofty mountain.

The land, contiguous to the two banks of the river, was planted with sugar-canes and tobacco,

which grows here with great luxuriance, though it does not abound so much as the sugar-cane.

I observed at this place several mills which raise the water of the river above the banks, whence it runs into reservoirs, to be afterwards diffused, by means of canals and aqueducts, over the fields that require irrigation.

These mills are of simple construction, and entirely composed of an assemblage of thin bamboos, except the axle-tree of the wheel, which is of timber. In no part is the smallest piece of iron or any other metal employed. The whole machine, as well as I was able to judge, is from eighteen to twenty-eight feet diameter. It is composed of two wheels, which have a common axis, and of which the spokes, inserted obliquely into the naves, cross each other at two-thirds of their length; so that the two wheels are connected by the spokes, and by a concentric circle or ring applied equally to each in order to keep them together. The extremities of the bamboos, which form the spokes, are also confined by a double rim put on each side of the ring or band by which the two wheels are united. These wheels have from forty to forty-eight spokes.

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To move the wheel, some flat bamboos, so cut as to resemble a board, and from ten to twelve inches wide, are placed externally at every fourth spoke on each side of the wheel, and between the two parts of the double rim which confines the spokes. It is against these bamboos that the current acts, while at the same points, that is to say, at every fourth spoke, but upon the band or ring that unites the two wheels of which the great wheel is composed, are tied thick and hollow joints of bamboo, which fill with water when the motion of the wheel plunges them into the stream. These joints of bamboo make, with the line described by the convexity or periphery of the wheel, an angle, which, as well as the length of the joint itself, is so calculated, that when the rotation of the wheel that has first raised them gives them an inclination downwards, they pour into the vessel destined to receive it the water which they have taken up from the river, and which an aqueduct afterwards conveys to the place where it is wanted.

Such a mill, when once set up, works continually night and day, until some accident obstructs its progress.

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To increase the velocity of the stream separations are made in the river in the shape of a weel, or bownet (*naffes*) so disposed that they form a channel or water-course in the direction of the wheel. By means of this channel, the water when it approaches the wheel is a foot and even more above the level of the river, the consequence of which is a fall that increases the momentum of the fluid upon the flat bamboos, or ladle-boards of the wheel, to which they give greater rapidity of motion. But for this cause of acceleration the wheel would bring the joints full of water but slowly upwards, especially as they have nothing to counterbalance their weight on the other side.

By this contrivance the mill answers the intended purpose as completely as the most complicated European machine could do; and I will answer for it that in China it does not occasion an expence of ten dollars. It seems to me that the mere putting together of the pieces of which it is composed, is a new proof of the industry and intelligence of the Chinese.

Their chain-pumps are also a testimony of it. They use them in order to raise great quantities of water to the height of ten or twelve feet. A
single

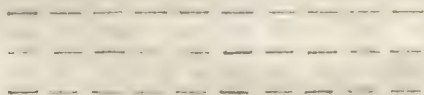
single man works this machine, and even carries it wherever it is wanted, as I have had occasion to remark several times in the province of *Quang-tong*, near *Vam-pou*. I have introduced the use of them into the United States of America, where they are of great utility in rivers, in consequence of the little labour they require.

At three quarters after nine we passed a hamlet called *O-lien-thang*, and at a quarter past eleven, *Hin-lu-thong*, a considerable place, situated on the bank of the river. Here also we saw a number of sugar-mills, the whole country in a manner being planted with the reed that produces that substance. A single object diversified the prospect, and that was an orchard; but it had already assumed the garb of winter.

It was half past twelve when we arrived between the two parts of a very large village, called *Cau-ichay-thong*, situated on both banks of the river. We afterwards passed by several hamlets, and at two o'clock came a-breast of the city of *Nan-hang-chen*, where I stopped to wait for the rest of the flotilla, of which my *Sam-pane* had taken the lead.

I availed

I availed myself of this opportunity to go and see a handsome temple dedicated to the philosopher *Kong-fou-tse* (Confucius), which was opposite the point where we stopped, and at a small distance from the city. This temple is spacious, and kept in very good order. The hall or principal apartment where the *Cheong* of the philosopher is exposed to view (for there is no image to represent him) is surmounted by a noble octagonal dome, such as I had never before remarked in any other pagoda. The cupola of the dome is covered with gilding and paintings; and the divisions of the border which correspond with the eight walls or sides of the octagon, bear the following inscriptions, acknowledged to be the most ancient of any of which the memory is preserved in China.



These characters are written in gold upon a red varnished ground.

* Why the place of these characters is filled up with blanks in the French original does not appear. T.

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In another apartment, adjoining to the former, I counted sixty two tablets, or small pieces of board, placed upon little pedestals, and inscribed with letters of gold. I was told that these were the names of the most celebrated disciples of Confucius.

The pagoda was soon filled with Chinese, attracted by the desire of seeing an European. This surprising concourse of people hindered me both from examining the pagoda as much as I could have wished, and from going to the city as I should have desired. I should have been glad to take a walk there, because it appeared a place of considerable magnitude, and because, as far as I could judge from the roofs that over-topped the wall, it must have contained a great number of elegant buildings.

At six o'clock I was overtaken by the rest of the Embassy. As soon as all our vessels were come up we dined, and at seven proceeded on our journey.

The vessels of our principal conductor having been driven upon the rocks the preceding night, I paid him a short visit to enquire after his health. I found that, luckily, none of his baggage had

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even been wet; and left him, after congratulating him on his escape, and expressing my wish that the remainder of his journey might prove more fortunate.

I have only to add, concerning *Nan-hang-chen*, that there is another place on the other side of the river, opposite the spot it occupies; as also a tower which stands upon a mountain, and of which five stories still exists. Above *Nan-hang-chen* itself, I perceived another tower, of which the top was likewise gone; and which, as well as the other, stands upon a mountain.

This evening, at three quarters past seven, we passed by a handsome Pagoda erected at the point of an angle which the river makes at this part. It is called *Tchip-coun-thang*. With this point, the tower I had already remarked above the city exactly corresponds. It is seven stories high without a spire. Soon after the country ceased to be mountainous, and we passed along a plain where we seldom met with a hill, the few that we did being at great distances from one another.

5th. This morning, at half past six, we passed by the mouth of a river coming from the west-ward.

ward. Very near its *embouchure* are two villages facing each other: one called *Thaan-hau-thong*; the other, *Sam-con-han-thong*. At a small distance farther on is *Kian-ngau-thong*, a hamlet. During the whole morning, every moment presented to our view a hamlet, a village, a sugar-mill, a brick-kiln, or some analagous establishment, which were so many proofs of the country being at once populous, and well cultivated. At eleven o'clock, a tower, seven stories high without a top, stood in a lateral direction in regard to us, and at half past eleven *Yen-cok-tchun*, a very large place situated on the banks of the river, attracted our attention. The crowds continually passing backward and forward bespoke a busy place, and the vessels, ranged in great numbers along the banks of the river, gave an idea of great commercial activity.

At one o'clock we came to the city of *Kien-tcheou-fou*, where we made a pause. Spectators came crowding by thousands to satisfy their curiosity, and to get a sight of the Europeans. Any one would have supposed that they meant to attack our vessels. As this concourse of people became troublesome, and as we found nothing there that compensated for our disagreeable situation, we left the place at three o'clock, with a determination

determination of not dining till we had got a little further on our road.

The city of *Kan-tcheou-fou* is of considerable magnitude, and is surrounded with walls in good repair. The suburbs also make a respectable appearance. If a judgment could be formed by the number of vessels ranged along the quays, it must be the seat of considerable commerce. On the other bank of the river, opposite the town, is a place of moderate extent, with a great number of very well-built houses.

In the city of *Kan-tcheou-fou*, we observed a tower of which eight stories may be counted; and perceived another of nine upon a hill by the river's side, about half an hour's walk to the left of the city. The top of the latter is entirely covered with shrubs, which is common enough with those that are overgrown from top to bottom with moss and brush-wood. This, however, has none but upon its upper surface. It is hexagonal.

We were a-breast of the great village of *Tchu-tam-thong* at five o'clock. It contains a Pagoda dedicated to Saint *Tay-houong*, protector of the dangerous pass of *Thin-tsou-thaan*. The Mandarins,

rins and all the Chinese of our party went thither to supplicate the Saint to be propitious to our journey, as we expected to be in the midst of that formidable passage on the following day.

After having dined at *Tay-houong* our first conductor intimated to us, that on account of the dangers to be apprehended from the rocks among which we were to navigate, we should not proceed; during the present night, beyond a point at a very little distance, where we were to wait for day-light. We were accordingly only half an hour in reaching the appointed place, and found there all the Mandarins who had set off before us.

We perceived in the evening that we were approximating the high mountains.

6th. At the break of day, the Mandarin gave the signal of departure, and all our vessels immediately got under way. At seven o'clock we were at the entrance of the dreadful passage of *Thin-sou-thaan*, which really deserves the epithet in the winter season, since the whole bed of the river is full of sharp rocks, the points of which are from two feet and a half to three feet above the surface, leaving a single narrow channel be-

tween them. The nature of the river remains the same throughout the whole passage, which it requires two hours to clear when going with the stream. Thanks to the favourable weather, to the moderate height of the water, and to the light of day, we did not run the smallest risk; but when the river is swelled by the rains, which raise it three or four feet higher, it acquires a rapidity that renders the boats unmanageable, and the passage extremely perilous. This is but too well proved by the number of vessels that are lost there every year.

As soon as we had cleared it, we had on either hand high mountains covered with trees, and scattered over with hamlets, and a great many country houses. Some of these mountains were clad, to their very summits, with the little shrub producing oil, of which I have already spoken, and which, being at this season of the year entirely covered with blossoms, presented a very agreeable object to the eye.

At nine o'clock we had reached *Tay-houong*, a large place seated at the confluence of a branch of the river that runs to the eastward; and half an hour afterwards *Tong-ping*, a large place, and well situated, because it is at the point of the
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island of *Tong-ping-tcheou*. That island is of considerable extent, and owes its existence to a branch that detaches itself from the river, as if on purpose to form it, and afterwards falls into the river again. The entrance of this branch is guarded by rocks, which deny access to all sorts of vessels.

At ten o'clock we passed a great hamlet to the eastward of the river called *Yau-tsau-thaam*, and half an hour afterwards the military post *Liong-fou*, and the village of the same name, which is also a large place, but situated upon the western bank.

Although the river is easily navigable in this part, it is nevertheless encumbered here and there with rocks, which rise a little above the surface of the water; but at a quarter past eleven we came to a place entirely full of large stones. To the westward was *Tsou-tsan-nin*, a pretty place of considerable size, and full of large trees; and opposite to it, on the eastern side, was *Tsiak-tsau-thau*, a place of some magnitude also. For more than half an hour, the river was never free from rocks.

At a quarter past twelve we came to *Houang-hong-tchen*, where we remarked a number of handsome houses overshadowed by fine trees, as we did also in the village looking towards it from the eastward.

In general, all this part of the Chinese Empire is very populous, the whole country being covered with habitations.

Bou-fok-thong was close to us at two o'clock. It is a large place upon the eastern side of the river. A sluice divides it into two parts, and a bridge, laid over three piers, affords a passage from one side of the sluice to the other. It is the northern part that contains the best edifices. The river began again to exhibit rocks and shoals.

At three quarters past two we came to a pagoda, which is the second dedicated to Saint *Tay-houong*, whom I have already mentioned as the guardian of the difficult passage in the river. The pilots of our *Sampanes* did not fail to do homage to him by striking upon the *gongom*. They also burned paper in honour of him, and addressed to him their thanksgivings for the protection he had afforded us in so dangerous a pass.

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After having passed several villages and hamlets which skirt the river on both sides, and of which I was not able to learn the names, we arrived at six o'clock at the city of *Van-ngan-chen*, where we remained till three quarters past seven, taking in provisions for the following day. This city appears by its ramparts, which were all we could see of it, to be of considerable size. Every thing was prepared to give us a welcome; and the Ambassador was received with a salute of three guns. After dinner we proceeded on our journey.

I now observed that the mountains had abandoned us, and that the eye could reach, without obstacle, on either side to a very distant horizon. We this day travelled a hundred and thirty *li*, (thirteen leagues).

7th. During the preceding night, the weather was rainy with a southerly wind, which prevented us from making any observations.

This morning we were still surrounded by a plain. At half past eight we came to *Tay-ho-chen*, a city situated in the plain to the westward, at a few *li*'s distance from the bank of the river.

From the point of sight whence we perceived it, its appearance was very agreeable; and we were able to distinguish several edifices, among which was a tower six stories high. The computed distance from *Van-ngan-chen* to *Tay-ho-chen* is nine leagues (ninety *li*). An hour and a half elapsed while we were waiting for provisions, and for the Mandarins, our conductors, after which we continued our journey. At half past ten we passed a handsome octagonal tower of eight stories, in very good preservation, and situated on the western bank upon the top of a high hill, where it occupies a considerable space. Beyond this tower is the village of *Ki-thau-tong*. At eleven o'clock we came to *Un-tou-thong*, another village upon the western bank, interspersed with trees, and of some extent.

At half past twelve we passed a hamlet called *Thim-tchin-paa*. Shortly after the western bank of the river became mountainous and rocky, and continued so till we were a little beyond *Faa-chac-thong*, which we reached at three o'clock. The country then resumed a level surface.

At half past four we arrived a-breast of *Tchon-ta-tou*, built to the eastward along the bank of the river, and situated at the beginning and foot of a
mountain.

mountain. A great number of houses compose this place, and indicate its importance, as do also a multitude of boats. On the other bank is a place of the same name, embellished with handsome stone houses, and not appearing to yield in extent to the former. The river, which for about two hours had run in a right line to the north-east, then took a north-westerly direction, and kept it at least an hour.

At five o'clock we came to a small, but neat hamlet. It was situated to the eastward of us, surrounded with trees, and built of stone. Half an hour after *Yeng-lau-san*, a large and shady place, attracted our attention. The plains, interspersed with trees, began again to appear. This evening the city of *Ki-ngan-fou* was our asylum; we supped there; a salute was fired in honour of the Ambassador; and a great movement among the people, and a general illumination, signalized our presence. Notwithstanding this, we could discern nothing of the city, except the great length it occupies upon the bank of the river, and some hundreds of boats ranged along that space. We took provisions on board, and set off again at ten o'clock.

Between yesterday evening and this we went a hundred and eighty *li* (eighteen leagues); for that is the computed distance between *Tay-ho-chen* and *Ki-ngan-fou*.

We navigated during the whole night, passing about twelve o'clock by the city of *Ki-chauye-chen*, without perceiving any thing of it.

8th. This morning, at eight o'clock, we came to the village of *Tong-con-houang*, thickly planted with trees, and situated at ninety *li* (nine leagues) from *Ki-ngan-fou*; an interval during which the darkness of the night prevented us from seeing a number of places. The river was become wider; and was skirted on either hand with plains till eight o'clock, when the mountains again approached us. At nine o'clock *La-on-cat-chang* presented itself, as did, half an hour after, the village of *Tchu-pan-thong* divided into four quarters, all in the plain. It was to the eastward of us, embellished with handsome houses, and overshadowed with trees. A quarter of a league further on our way, the western bank offered to our eyes *Tchu-ki-tchun*, in a line with which, and also on the western side, is an hexagonal tower, whose nine stories gain an additional elevation from the height of the hill it stands upon. Its top

no longer exists; and it seems to have been struck by thunder, since it is not easy to attribute to any other cause a number of holes in the stones, which in two places descend in a right line from top to bottom. Here on both sides of the river steep mountains show themselves entirely bare of trees.

At three quarters past ten, we were a-breast of the city of *Kia-kiang-chen*, where we were all to wait and take in provisions. Our Mandarins, having also some business to transact at that place, detained us there till it was past three o'clock.

This city is small, but the rampart, or wall that surrounds it, is of considerable extent. It even passes over the summit of two high hills, at the foot of which the houses are built.

Beyond *Kia-kiang-chen*, the country is again flat to a great distance from the river; and around the city are a number of country-houses, encircled and shaded by beautiful trees. This landscape is repeated on the eastern side of the river.

At five o'clock we passed *Ouan-ho-ouang* to the westward of the river, an extensive and well built place. If the fields resemble the banks of
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the river, the whole of this country must be exceedingly fertile in wheat and other grain, the soil being of a rich and marley nature. The houses we saw there gave us a very favourable idea of the prosperity of the inhabitants.

At nine in the evening, we came near the city of *Sin-ta-chen* to the eastward of the river; but as there was no landing on that side on account of the shallowness of the water, tents, and triumphal arches were erected on the western bank, and every thing prepared for our reception. The same motive had conducted thither all the Mandarins of the city, who came to pay us their compliments. We took on board provisions at this place, and after about an hour's stay set off again, continuing our journey during the whole of the night, without seeing a mountain. We were going almost in a right line to the north-east, with a considerable increase in the width of the river.

9th. This morning, at five o'clock, we arrived a-breast of *Tchong-ek*, and staid there about an hour. Although *Tchong-ek* is not considered as a city, it has all the appearance of one, occupying eight hundred toises along the bank of the river. On the side next the water, which is
crowded

crowded with vessels, is a wall of stone, run up to a great height, and kept in excellent repair. We perceived there several temples also, and other edifices of tolerable appearance. *Tchong-ek*, on the eastern bank of the river, is sixty *li* distant from the city of *Sin-tu-chen*, (six leagues).

At eight o'clock we reached *Yong-tsi-tsau* situated exactly at the point made by the two branches of the river; its elegant houses, and fine trees, give it a pleasing appearance. As the eye cannot discover any thing like a hill, it appears as if the whole country had been purposely levelled. The landscape seemed also to say that the country is rich and fertile, since all the fields were sown with different kinds of grain, while on every side were seen hamlets and villages, interspersed with trees, the houses being for the most part of stone, and their appearance such as to attract the attention of the traveller.

I can venture to say, that in all the space my eyes could reach in every direction, there was not a single unpleasant point of view. On either bank of the river I could count a dozen hamlets, or villages, presenting themselves at the same moment to the eye. Externally every thing wore the appearance of prosperity and happiness.

At

At nine o'clock we were a-breast of a village called *Tan-fen-cai-thong*, and three quarters of an hour afterwards that of *V'ong-quan-san*, both east of the river. The latter is extensive, and planted with trees. At eleven o'clock we reached the city of *Tong-ching-chen*, situated also to the eastward, but not equal in appearance to *Tchong-ek*, which we had seen in the morning. Like that place, *Tong-ching-chen* has a wall of hewn stone along-side of the river; but several portions of it no longer exist. From the water-side, nothing is to be seen but houses standing out of the city, and having little to recommend them to the eye. We remained there till half past twelve, when we set off again, reckoning that we had still a hundred and twenty *li* (twelve leagues) to travel before we could reach *Nan-tchang-fou*, the capital of the province of *Kiang-si*. Thence we were to proceed to *Pe-king* by land in eight and twenty days, according to the calculation of our first Mandarin, the remaining distance being still three hundred and twenty leagues (three thousand two hundred *li*).

At half past one we passed close by *Long-than-chan*, a convent built upon a rock, both sides of which are washed by the river, because it stands in the middle of the stream. The temple belonging

ing to the convent is dedicated to Saint *Samquan*. It stands entirely embosomed in lofty trees. To the eastward, and opposite the convent, is a large village, where there are also a great number of trees. On the eastern side also is *Tay-cong-hau-fong*, where we arrived at three o'clock. Several hamlets succeeded, and last of all the village of *Tchu-tsa-than*, a tolerably large place.

10th. At two in the morning we reached *Tsa-tsin-se*, standing on the western bank opposite *Nan-tchang-fou*. Here our journey by water terminated; and here all our trunks and baggage were debarked, in order to their being conveyed over land. When the day broke we saw the city standing on the other bank. It had the appearance of a very extensive place, and seemed to contain a great number of houses, besides temples, and other important edifices. In the midst of the river is a bank or island of sand of considerable magnitude, but entirely uncultivated.

At eight o'clock all the persons of the Embassy quitted their *Samphanes*, and went on shore. We were then carried to the hotel of a great Mandarin, which had been prepared for our reception, and where all our baggage had been deposited,

fited, that it might be properly arranged for the *Coulis* to carry it. We dined, and at two o'clock the Ambassador and I seated ourselves in our palanquins, in order to begin our journey over-land, which the other gentlemen rather chose to perform on horseback.

Upon leaving the city, we met successively with two triumphal arches which were lined with two hundred soldiers under arms. We passed between them, and at each arch three guns were fired as a salute to the Ambassador.

We proceeded on our journey, passing now through considerable places, now through hamlets, some of which were pretty enough, and meeting at times with uneven ground, broken by small hillocks, but in every part the country consisted of arable land. In the evening we arrived at *Lok-faa-tsun*, where we passed the night. It is a place of considerable extent, appears populous, and afforded us a very comfortable lodging.

11th. At four in the morning we proceeded on our journey; and at half past ten, after twice crossing the river, we came to the city of *Kienthang-chén* where we dined. - At two o'clock

we

we set off again, in order to reach *Ta-ngan-chen*, where we arrived at nine in the evening, and where we passed the night.

In the conveyance of our baggage we met with a great many difficulties, of which the *Coulis* were the principal cause. It seemed as if the Mandarins had but little authority over them.

Our road this day led us again through several handsome villages and hamlets, and over very fertile arable land, of which a great part was sown with corn, turnips, and horse beans. All these plants were growing in straight lines, and in an order that might vie with that of our kitchen gardens. It appears that the Chinese never scatter the seed with the hand, but sow always in furrows, and with a dibble. This symmetrical regularity gave a charming appearance to the fields which were already in a state of vegetation.

Upon the hills there are a great many hollies, aspens, and woods of beech and oak.

I observed also that the hogs in this part of the country differed entirely from those of *Quang-tong*, being quite black, and apparently of a wild breed. Their belly does not hang down; their
snout

snout is short and turned up; and their ears are long and pendant. Their hair is also both thicker and stiffer.

It is equally easy to see that there is a difference in the men, particularly in the colour of the skin. In general they are here of a much ruddier complexion than the inhabitants of the south of China; a circumstance that is still more perceptible among the women, whose cheeks are as red as those of European females, in the full bloom of youth and health.

Among the carriages employed in this country is a wheel-barrow, singularly constructed, and employed alike for the conveyance of persons and goods. According as it is more or less heavily loaded, it is directed by one or two persons, the one dragging it after him, while the other pushes it forward by the shafts. The wheel, which is very large in proportion to the barrow, is placed in the centre of the part on which the load is laid, so that the whole weight bears upon the axle, and the barrow men support no part of it, but serve merely to move it forward, and to keep it in equilibrium. The wheel is as it were cased up in a frame made of laths, and covered over with a thin plank, four or five inches wide.

wide. On each side of the barrow is a projection, on which the goods are put, or which serves as a seat for the passengers. A chinese traveller sits on one side, and thus serves to counterbalance his baggage, which is placed on the other. If his baggage be heavier than himself, it is balanced equally on the two sides, and he seats himself on the board over the wheel, the barrow being purposely contrived to suit such occasions.

The sight of this wheel-barrow thus loaded, was entirely new to me. I could not help remarking its singularity, at the same time that I admired the simplicity of the invention. I even think, that in many cases such a barrow would be found much superior to ours.

In addition to this, I should say that the wheel is at least three feet in diameter, that its spokes are short and numerous, and consequently, that the felloes are very deep; and that its convexity on the outer side, instead of being nearly flat, like common wheels, is of a sharp form. This narrowness of the outer edge of the wheel appeared to me at first sight very unsuitable. It seemed that if broader it would have been better adapted to a clayey soil; but I recollected that at *Java*, the carts drawn by buffaloes have also

wheels with narrow felloes, on purpose that in the rainy season they may cut through strong grounds, in which broad wheels would stick fast; as experience taught the learned M. Hooyman, who attempted to employ broad wheeled carts in the environs in Batavia, but found himself obliged to follow the custom of the country. I am therefore convinced that the Chinese wheel is the best suited to a clayey soil.

12th. The Ambassador had this morning a little dispute with the Mandarin who commands our escort, concerning the disorder apparent in every thing since yesterday; our supper not being ready at midnight, and no care having been taken to send our cooks on before us. The *Coulis* had even set them down in the middle of the road, and refused to carry them any farther. Beds, trunks, every thing had arrived late and partially; and our lodgings were bad, and destitute of every kind of convenience.

The Mandarin expressed his concern for all our sufferings, and assured us that not one of them was imputable to his negligence, but entirely to a want of subordination among the *Coulis*; that he would redouble his efforts to remedy them; but that for several days to come it would be impossible

possible for him to procure us more convenient lodgings, because the province did not afford better. He added, that superior accommodations would be found in *Kiang-nan*, and nearer to *Pe-king*; and that he hoped his Excellency would exercise his patience for a few days longer. He then entreated us to proceed immediately upon our journey.

After a light breakfast, we set off at half past nine, in the midst of rain and a very high wind. At one o'clock we came to a very large and handsome Pagoda, dedicated to the Goddess *Coun-yam*, (who is the Virgin Mary of the Chinese). We there took a cold dinner, and left it at four o'clock, in order to take up our abode for the night at the city of *Kieou-kiang-fou*. The rain and the wind having increased during the evening, our torches went out at every step. The road, in the part where it was carried over heights, or passed between the gorges of mountains, was very slippery; and our bearers, after having got through it, were numbed with cold, wet, and worn out with fatigue. The consequence was, that at the first habitation they came to they put down my palanquin under a shed by the road side, in order to go to the house in search of fire to warm themselves, and dry their

clothes. Thus abandoned, I laid myself down to sleep in my vehicle, experiencing at that moment how fortunate it was that our merchant *Ponqua* had taken care to procure such convenient carriages for the Ambassador and me. The rest of the night passed away while I was enjoying a comfortable sleep.

In the morning we saw two litters, carried by mules, pass by us. They were larger than our covered palanquins, and consequently we should have found them more commodious on our journey; but it was impossible to procure similar conveyances. These carriages belong to rich persons, who have them made whenever they are about to undertake a long journey.

13th. At the break of day my bearers came to take me up again. The road, as well as on the preceding day, passed over plains, interspersed with hamlets and insulated habitations. At eight o'clock I arrived at the lodgings prepared for us in the city of *Kieou-kiang-sou*, where his Excellency had been since two o'clock in the morning. The Mandarin who was at the head of the government, and who wore the dark blue button, came to pay his respects to me, as he had done to the Ambassador in the middle of the night.

He

He was old; exceedingly polite, and eager to comply with all our desires. Our lodging was very convenient and spacious.

I went to take a walk in the town, which might with more propriety be called a village; since instead of the common way of laying out the ground in cities, many of the houses are surrounded with large kitchen gardens. Whole fields, and cultivated pieces of land separate the houses; between which there are such immense intervals, that I do not believe more than a tenth part of the space within the walls is built upon.

I went to see the principal pagoda, where our first conductor was lodged, which gave me an opportunity of paying him a visit. This temple is very large, and kept in excellent repair. By the side of it is a convent inhabited by a number of Bonzes. Near the pagoda is a handsome hexagonal tower of seven stories. It differed from most of those I had seen, because between every story it is encircled with a double balcony. It is indeed the second of the kind that I have yet met with. The other was at *Kien-tchang-chen*, through which we passed the day before yesterday.

It would be impossible to give an idea of the incredible multitude of people who came crowding to see me: it was so great that but for the Chinese soldiers who attended me, and opened me a way through the crowd, I should never have been able to get on. The women completely filled all the doors and windows. In general their persons were pleasing: I even remarked some who were beautiful.

It was the intention of the Ambassador to take another night's repose; but at three o'clock this afternoon, the Mandarin came to propose to us to sleep at a place forty *li* off. The reason was that we had to pass at *Kieou-kiang-fou*, a very large branch of the *Kiang*, which we might now do with a favourable breeze; whereas, if we staid till the following day, a change of wind might render the passage of it impossible, and thereby not only occasion a delay in our journey, but might even injure the success of our Embassy.

The tone of entreaty and persuasion used by the Mandarin had its effect upon his Excellency, and at four o'clock we quitted our comfortable lodgings in order to proceed on our journey. We repaired to the bank of the river, which is very wide, of which the *coup d'œil* is very agreeable,

able, and which is navigable for small junks. Finding there several large and commodious vessels ready to convey us with our retinue and baggage, we went on board then, and, hoisting our sails, reached the opposite bank in about half an hour.

I should add here, that upon a hill near the place where we embarked there stands a pagoda, by the side of which is an hexagonal tower of six stories high, in very good preservation. The shadow of some tall trees fell upon the temple, which, together with the tower, composed a very agreeable view.

When we came to the other side, we seated ourselves again in our palanquins, and came to a moderately large place, where we were conducted to a public edifice. The commandant, whom we had seen on the other side of the river, came and shewed us the same civilities again, because we were still within his district. He invited us to partake of a collation which he had prepared; but we begged to be excused, expressing to him our desire to arrive at the place where we were to sleep in time for supper. Having furnished ourselves with torches we set off at six o'clock; but scarcely had we advanced

an hundred yards before the *Coulis* set us down in the streets, refusing to carry us any farther unless they were better paid. Two hours were spent in disputes, which ended in an acquiescence in their demand. In the mean time the weather was become exceedingly bad, with wind and rain. We went on notwithstanding. I seated myself in my chair in a convenient posture for sleep, and did not arrive till two o'clock in the morning at *Liang-kiang*, where we put up at the most miserable lodgings we had hitherto met with. It furnished neither the means of satisfying thirst or hunger, nor was there any place where we could decently lie down.

I was so indignant at it, that after having waited in vain half an hour for the arrival of the Ambassador, I went to sleep in my palanquin. I was exceedingly vexed at his Excellency having suffered himself to be over-persuaded by the old Mandarin, and at our being deprived of our excellent lodgings, and even indeed of our supper; for all our train was entirely dispersed.

14th. This morning, at six o'clock, I ordered my *Coulis* to be called, and hearing that the Ambassador was not arrived, set off from this miserable inn without getting out of my chair. The
weather,

weather, though still rainy, granted me now and then a short interval of fair weather. I was travelling over very fertile arable land. At half past one in the afternoon I reached the city of *Houang-nai chen*, in the province of *Han-king*, where the accommodations, although something better than those of the preceding day, were hardly superior to what may be procured in an inconsiderable Dutch village.

The Ambassador arrived an hour after, and slept in his palanquin or chair, as I had done the night before. Our other gentlemen came in succession, as well as part of the baggage, but his Excellency's guard did not yet appear. We supped, and every one laid down to court the embraces of sleep, rendered both sweet and necessary by fatigue.

The city appeared of considerable magnitude, and very commercial. It is also very popular, to judge at least by the great concourse of people we met with in crossing the streets. In this city there is a pyramidal tower of eight sides.

15th. Our trunks and baggage arrived piecemeal in the course of the morning, and at noon the guards of the Embassy made their appearance.

ance. We were in hopes of passing another night at *Houang-mey-chen*, in order to recover entirely from our fatigue, and to see every thing belonging to us collected together; but our first conductor came again to request the Ambassador to proceed forty *li* in the afternoon, and not to stop till we should have gone the whole distance. We determined to do so, upon condition, however, that the Mandarins should take more efficacious means to convey our trunks and beds to our lodgings as soon as ourselves.

We set off accordingly at three o'clock. We first travelled over a flat country, through ploughed fields, crossing several branches of rivers on our way. Our road passed afterwards by the foot of a mountain, and at length, at six o'clock, we reached the appointed place: it was the village of *Ting-ching-chan*. Our accommodations were worse there than at the place we had quitted; but as it was in vain to think of getting better, we had nothing to do but to content ourselves where we were. This place, which is not considerable, is a dependency of the city of *Houang-mey-chen*.

So far our journey over land was not easily performed; and cannot be better compared than

than with a forced march made by light troops. It was fortunate indeed that the rain ceased, for it had already rendered the roads almost impassable. After a tolerable supper, at which we had the company of our first conductor, who came to fix the next day's route with the Ambassador, we went to bed at half past nine, that we might be ready to set off at an early hour.

We were accordingly in motion at four o'clock, and, after having proceeded a league, entered the province of *Kiang-nan*, of which *Can-tin-fou* *, better known by the name of *Nam-king*, is the capital. We crossed several branches of rivers, mostly by means of stone bridges, having eight, seven, five, or a smaller number of piers. The bridges here are not all constructed with arches; there are some having from one pier to another nothing but flat hewn stones, ten or twelve feet long; the piers are also of hewn stone, and are of a sharp form in the part they present to the stream, in order that the water, in its rapid course, may meet with the least possible resistance, and consequently do no damage to the

* This is the real name of the city which the Europeans are in the habit of calling *Nam-king*, the latter word signifying only the *Court of the South*, because *Can-ding-fou*, situated in the south of China, was the Imperial place of residence.

bridge;

bridge; a precaution which shews the skill and penetration of the Chinese architects.

Over two rivers we found bridges supported by floating bamboos.

We came to several villages where all sorts of potter's work are executed upon the largest scale. In other villages we found manufactories of almost all kinds of wrought goods. As a proof of the industry exerted in this respect, I must mention one where vermicelli was making. The land at the same time announced the greatest fertility.

At eleven o'clock we were at *Fong-chang-y*, a pretty large place, whence we set off an hour after for *Tay-ha-chen*, and arrived there at half past two o'clock. As we had our *Coulis* to change, we staid there an hour and a half in a very handsome hotel. This large and commercial city is situated upon an island formed by two branches of the river. In the street where we stopped we saw an hexagonal tower, seven stories high, almost similar to that of *Kieou-kiang-yeu*, of which mention is made above. It was past four when we quitted this city on our way to *Tcheou-ist-eck*, where we arrived at half past seven. The other gentlemen had preceded us
thither.

thither. An hotel, of tolerable appearance, was our asylum for the night.

During the day we saw four triumphal arches of stone, which, although very ancient, were in a pretty good state. Two of them stood in the midst of fields, at a small distance from the road. The weather was very fine and mild, but, during the morning, the roads were bad and slippery. We passed over several elevated spots, shut in between high mountains; the whole distance travelled this day being a hundred and twenty (twelve leagues).

We were ready to set off at four o'clock in the morning, but we had neither *Coulis* nor torches, and an hour elapsed before we could get away. Being the last to set off, I was not on the road till three quarters past five. The weather was rainy, windy, and cold. At three quarters past ten I came to *Tsien-chan-chen*, a city of considerable size. I can say nothing of its interior, because I was only carried along-side its walls; but from without I distinguished a very large tower of six sides, and as many stories, which differed from all I had hitherto seen, by having its top in the form of a lantern. I found the party already assembled at our halting place, whence we departed

before half past eleven, with the intention of passing the night at *Tong-ching-chen*; but when we reached *Tcheo-lou-han*, his Excellency was taken to sleep at an hotel there, on account of the rain, although it was only half past three o'clock, and we might yet have proceeded a considerable distance. It was natural, however, that we should comply with the desire of our conductor. Our day's journey was in consequence only ninety *li*.

During the greater part of this day we travelled over mountains where not the smallest fertile spot escapes cultivation. The eye of an European is delighted at beholding the industrious application of the Chinese; who, rating difficulties at nothing, convert mountains into fertile fields, and change their inclined surface into level ground, by means of terraces of four or five feet elevation, which descend by steps from the top of the declivity to the bottom of the valley. But for their exertions it is evident that those regions must remain for ever uncultivated, on account of the ravages committed by the floods during the heavy rains, which would not fail to carry both the soil and the seed deposited in it into the ravines below. The precautions of which I am speaking render such a mis-
chief

chief impossible by levelling every thing. Each terrace is besides secured with a parapet, and a little ditch to drain off the superfluous water. On the other hand, as elevated grounds are in their very nature subject to drought, the Chinese, to remedy this evil, judiciously place on the summits of the highest mountains ample reservoirs, in which the rain water is received and preserved. As soon as the drought begins to be felt, the reviving stream descends, and saves the corn, grass, and vegetables, from its pernicious effects.

The aspect of a slope so disposed, when seen from a commanding situation, was highly agreeable, although the ground was now entirely stripped and naked. How delightful must it be when wheat embellishes the surface, and covers it with a verdant carpet!

From the top of one of these slopes, along which I was carried, I discovered; at noon, no less than nine hamlets, lying in different directions, and borrowing from the surrounding trees the appearance of so many shady groves. The whole composes a very beautiful picture, with a long succession of mountains in the distance, where the eye of the spectator discerns pagodas
and

and other edifices standing upon elevated spots, and surrounded by innumerable trees.

We have also this day had a view of several triumphal or honorary arches, built of stone. Near the city of *Tsen-chan-chen* are five, at no great distance from one another; four of them by the road side, and the fifth in the very middle of the highway.

I made more particular enquiries concerning the signification of these monuments, and was told, that they are architectural works intended to perpetuate the memory of persons of both sexes, whose virtues have deserved celebration and the homage of the public. The Emperor, on his part by way of exciting emulation, takes care to preserve whatever may serve to transmit to posterity an idea of the glory of those celebrated persons; while inscriptions indicate their names, and the noble actions by which they gained their renown.

A more exact idea will be given of this kind of recompense by mentioning the most virtuous classes of men in favour of whom this usage has been adopted.

1. Persons

1. Persons who have lived a century; the Chinese thinking, that without a sober and virtuous life it is impossible to attain so great an age.

2. Children who have given proofs of great filial affection.

3. Women remarkable for their chastity.

The finest of the triumphal arches we saw this day, which is composed of a very hard kind of white marble called *Samchit*, was erected in honour of three sisters. According to the Chinese custom, they had been betrothed from their infancy; but their three intended husbands died before they were marriageable. In vain did other men desire their company through life; faithful to their first engagements, they considered them as binding till their death, after which this mark of honour was awarded them.

4. The Mandarins who have governed in the district subject to their authority with fidelity and justice, so as to gain the love and esteem of the people.

5. And lastly, the persons who have distinguished themselves by rendering signal services to the state; or who have made or invented any thing conducive to the advantage of the public.

From the beginning of our journey over land to the present time, I have met with upwards of twenty-five of these honorary arches.

I return to the wheel-barrow already described to mention what I have observed to-day. By way of hindering the wheel from wearing out in sandy roads, the outer edge, or periphery, is covered with a rim, two inches wide, made of bamboo. By means of this the wheel does not sink in, but rolls over the superficies of the ground like a Dutch wheel. Thus have the Chinese contrived to make their barrow serviceable in all roads, by means of a trifling addition which they have it always in their power to provide.

Our lodging was again very bad at *Tcheon-lou-hou*, and in consequence of the resolution we had taken this morning of going still further, the greater part of our baggage, table utensils, and wine, were sent on before us, which rendered our repast very disagreeable. We were,
indeed,

indeed, in want of every accommodation, and even of forks and spoons; for the former are not in use in China, and the latter are made of porcelain, with very short handles. We were also reduced to drink water. In all respects the scene was well worthy painting; and circumstances of this kind were so little uncommon, that surely no Embassy ever met with so many curious adventures.

18th. We set off at half past four; the rain, which had poured the whole night, continuing at intervals during all the day, rendered the roads horrible. At ten o'clock we arrived at *Tau-tchong-y*, where we made a stop of half an hour to breakfast; and at three quarters past four in the afternoon reached our lodgings in the suburbs of *Tong-ching-chen*, whither his Excellency had preceded us two hours before. This was the best halting place we had hitherto met with.

The wind beginning to blow strongly from the westward towards noon, the cold became more piercing than we had yet felt it throughout our journey. We crossed several rivers, the road keeping constantly at a small distance from a chain of high mountains, of which the summits

were covered with ice and snow. We passed to-day in like manner as yesterday, over heights and through vallies, meeting on our way with many spots of cultivated ground. I observed several small patches by the road side which were hardly six feet broad, and which were nevertheless prepared for sowing by the plough. This proves to what a pitch the attention to cultivation is carried; and that it suffers nothing to escape it.

The political system of the Chinese princes in remote times was to consider agriculture as the principal; the first, and most noble of the occupations of man. This idea goes to such a length that the Emperor attends annually at a solemn festival, in which he exercises the profession of a husbandman. Many learned Chinese have, from time immemorial, written a great number of works concerning agriculture—works of which Grammont, the Missionary, spoke to me at Canton in high terms of praise. He even thinks them worthy of translation into the European languages, on account of the utility that might be derived from them; and because many things occur in them which among us are entirely unknown.

We

We saw in this day's journey several hamlets, and seven honorary arches. I can say little of the city of *Tong-ching-chen*, because I only passed along its walls. It appeared, however, a place of some magnitude, and I could perceive the remains of two octagonal towers, one of three stories, the other of six. Nothing else curious attracted my observation.

In the evening the *Fou-yuen* of the district dispatched two Mandarins to present to us his respects, and his apology for not coming in person, on account of the rain. He sent us a present of a hundred hams, and a hundred salted ducks, with tea and sugar for our journey. At the beginning of the night the rain redoubled.

19th. The weather being tolerably dry this morning, we set off at half past four, the rest of the train following us slowly. The *Coulis*, twelve of whom had been ordered for the Ambassador's palanquin, and as many for mine, set me down at half a league from the city, in the road and in the midst of the mud, because their number was reduced to five, the other seven having made off as soon as they had received their hire. After waiting an hour four other *Coulis* came to my

relief, and took me up again. The road, being carried almost constantly over a clayey soil, was very bad, which prevented my arriving before one o'clock at *Tay-qua-se*, a large place, at only forty *li* distance from *Tong-ching-chên*.

I stopped there half an hour in order to get four *Coulis*, which were procured for me by the Mandarin. He sent also one of his servants with me on horseback, to keep an eye over those scoundrels, and prevent their desertion. At half past one I proceeded on my journey, but it was past two o'clock in the morning before I reached our lodgings at *Yu-ching-chên*, having consumed at least three hours in going the last seven *li*. The roads were so exceedingly bad that the *Coulis* were constantly half way up their legs in mud; and it was so slippery that they were every moment in danger of falling. This, indeed, happened four times, and the consequence was that the seat under me was broken to pieces. I returned thanks to heaven when I found myself safely housed; for the road not being wide, there was no little danger of being thrown into the ditch, on one side or other, as often as the bearers made a false step.

After

After so uncomfortable a journey I was again obliged to go to bed without a supper, because the cooks again came up too late. Some of the persons of the Ambassador's suite were under the necessity of travelling part of the way on foot. On the approach of night the cold became so piercing, that it seemed as if we had been suddenly transported into the midst of winter; and this change being still more distressing to the Chinese than to Europeans, it is no wonder that a great number of the *Coulis* deserted at the end of the day, in order to warm themselves in the first house they met with. All these circumstances rendered our journey doubly disagreeable.

His Excellency, on his arrival here, was conducted to a miserable public-house. He complained of this bitterly, and in very expressive terms; to the Mandarin of the town, who was come to congratulate him, and told him repeatedly, that he should never have expected such treatment. The Mandarin pretended that there was no better place, but as his assertion was evidently contrary to truth, the Ambassador had him driven from his presence.

Two of our gentlemen, mounted on horseback, had gone from the place in which we

were quartered to the city, where they were told of a very good inn in another part of the suburbs. We have even reason to believe that it was prepared for us, since triumphal arches such as we generally found before our halting places, were erected there. His Excellency, being informed of the discovery of this inn, removed to it about midnight.

We were nevertheless obliged to go without beds, and to content ourselves with the cushions of our palanquins, almost all our baggage being behind us, particularly some trunks that were left in the middle of the road by the *Conlis*, on account of the cold and rain. We had, however, travelled a hundred and ten *li* since the morning.

The road we followed this day was continually up and down hill, but towards the evening we came to a plain. At seven *li* from the city of *Tong-chin-chen* we crossed a river in ferry-boats. It had frozen the preceding night and in the morning, and every thing was covered with ice as in the midst of winter. The fields and trees were entirely clad in a garb of sparkling white.

Towards

Towards noon we climbed slowly up a very lofty mountain, and reached its top enveloped in ice and snow, about half past one. The descent on the other side of this mountain was so rapid, that in some places it exceeded that of *Moiling-chan*. When upon the summit I enjoyed the astonishing spectacle of a valley situated between two ridges of mountains, and of an appearance so attractive, that I could not satisfy my eyes. Every thing was, however, in a state of barren nakedness, which could not fail to injure the prospect. How charming, then, must be the contemplation of this magnificent scene when summer has scattered flowers over it; when their bright tints form a delightful contrast with the other beauties of vegetation; and when yellow ears of corn enrich the fields.

At two o'clock I reached the valley, where I pursued my journey for three hours, constantly accompanied by rivulets, and their gentle murmurs, and constantly surrounded by the marks of cultivation, of which the impression was discernible upon the very tops of the mountains.

The industry and skill of the Chinese in agriculture manifests itself in this valley, with all the characteristics of the highest perfection. At a
single

single glance the eye takes in their various contrivances to profit by the different situations of the ground. The lower parts are cut into steps or stages, as I have already had occasion to relate, while the hills are ploughed up to the very top, a direction being given to the furrows and ditches, such as the inclination of the plane requires to drain off the water. Such places as form an amphitheatre, and have no inundation to fear during the rainy season, are also cultivated to the very summits of the mountains. Yes, I am sure that many people in Europe would go a hundred miles to enjoy a prospect so enchanting as that of this valley must be when all its ornaments are united.

I must also be permitted to add; that in the space occupied by arable land, sometimes houses were seen forming separate habitations, and sometimes collected into hamlets. Lofty and tufted trees added their rural beauties to different parts of the picture, and while, for the first time, the empire of China offered to my view oaks lofty enough to recal the idea of the king of the forest, I cast also a glance upon the weeping willows that grew by the road side. A soft and gentle shower covered the branches of that melancholy tree, as well as of all the others, and
of

of the most humble shrubs, with a dew that glittered over their foliage, while the light reflected from these little globes of crystal, produced an effect which created at once astonishment and pleasure, and which was such as I never remember to have seen at any other period of my life.

During the morning I saw ten more triumphal arches, six of which were near the city of *Tong-ching-chen*, and close to one another.

A great many pigs are bred here. I met whole herds going to feed in the woods; all of them black, and such as I described under the date of the 10th of this month. Since we have been travelling over land I have not met with a single white one.

It was for the first time that I to-day observed a change in the dogs: till now, and in the southern parts of the Empire, I had seen none but the straight-eared spaniel, but here the dogs have pendant ears, and a thin tail. Their height is greater than that of the spaniel, from which they are altogether a different species.

In this part of the country very good yellow carrots are cultivated, which have exactly the
same

same taste as the Dutch, and are consequently far superior to those of Canton. We also met with round turnips of the largest kind in great abundance.

20th. We were not able to set off on account of all our baggage being again behind us, and of its raining the whole day. There was, besides, a want of *Coulis*, because the presents intended for the Emperor, that were sent off from Canton before our departure, passed by here yesterday, and employed about a thousand *Coulis* in their conveyance. Last evening we found two mirrors still without the city. They were forwarded this morning, which added to the difficulty we found in procuring the three hundred that were wanted for our suite and baggage.

In the course of the day a great part of our baggage arrived at our lodgings, and we learned that during the two last days and nights, eight *Coulis* had died of cold and fatigue.

We were also informed that the preparing of lodgings for us on the road was by no means the business of the Mandarins, our conductors; but that each province deputed Mandarins for that express purpose.

The

The governor of the province of *Kiang-nam* committed this charge to the *On-tcha-tsu*, who was distinguished by the blue transparent button. He came in consequence to *Yu-ching-chen* to order lodgings for us; but as the care of this afterwards devolves upon the commandants of the towns, this descent of authority often leads to a result that rather retards than accelerates the journey.

The *Lingua* came to tell me in the evening, that the want of *Goulis*, hindering us from setting off at an early hour, we had no occasion to hurry ourselves. The weather continued rainy and cold.

21st. On reviewing our baggage we found that a great deal was wanting, and that we had not a single chest of wine, which had already reduced us to the necessity of drinking water with our supper the evening before.

This day being the *Tong*, or Christmas of the Chinese, which they celebrate with great festivity, it became still more difficult to procure *Conlis*.

At eleven o'clock the Mandarins, our conductors, came to pay a visit to the Ambassador and

and me, and to make an apology to him for the bad reception he had met with on arriving at this place. They told him, that those matters were not at all under their regulation, but were left to the Mandarins of the province and places through which we passed.

Shortly after the *On-tcha-tsu* of the province came also to pay us his compliments. He was very polite, and did not fail to speak to us immediately of the ignorance of the commandant of the city, who had pointed out a lodging for the Ambassador that was not intended for him; instead of that which had been prepared for his reception, as the arrangements made there proved. He added, that he had already made a complaint of this conduct to the governor of the province, and that he did not doubt that the commandant would be dismissed from his place. He then proposed to us to go twenty-five *li* that night, in order that we might arrive at the city *Liu-tsiou-fou* on the following day; but as it was already past twelve; as it would have required at least two hours to collect the necessary bearers; and as a good deal of our baggage was still missing, I persuaded his Excellency to go no farther that day, because the night would be very far advanced before we could reach the intended

intended place, where, according to all appearance, we should be obliged to go without supper and beds; whereas, by remaining where we were, we should be sure of both. The Ambassador, coinciding in my reasons, declined proceeding any further that day.

I then proposed to the Mandarins that we should travel ninety or a hundred *li* a day, and that things should be so arranged that we might set off at four o'clock in the morning as long as we should be carried by *Coulis*. I added, that when we should reach the province of *Chan-tong* (where we were made to hope that we should be furnished with litters), they might lengthen our day's journies, and even make us travel during the night, especially as we should then have the advantage of moon-light. By these means, as the roads would no doubt be firm and frozen, we should find it easy, if necessary, to travel two hundred *li* in four-and-twenty hours.

My propositions were well received by the Mandarins, and, after a long debate, it was determined that we should travel seventy-five *li* the next day, in order to reach a suitable place to sleep at; and that, for greater convenience, our baggage should be forwarded the whole of the
afternoon.

afternoon, which was accordingly done. It was settled that we should set off the next day at five o'clock. The Mandarins, who appeared satisfied with these arrangements, took leave of us and retired. We consequently remained in the same lodgings.

During the whole day there was a gentle fall of snow, and the weather was pretty cold. Fahrenheit's thermometer fell this morning to thirty-two degrees, which corresponds with the freezing point of Reaumur's. In the night the weather grew clear, and it froze hard.

22d. At six in the morning we quitted *Yu-ching-chen*, Fahrenheit's thermometer standing at twenty-five degrees and a half. The road was frozen, rugged, and full of sharp points, which made it very difficult to walk; but the weather was clear, and we saw the sun for the first time since the 11th. Our road lay constantly over plains, with now and then a gentle rising and descent, but there were no mountains except those that we saw at a very remote distance. We consequently met with very few rivers.

At eleven o'clock we came to *Tau-chen-chen*, where we stopped for at least an hour to refresh

This

This city is pretty large. Setting off after dinner we arrived at half past five at *Koun-ek*, where we slept in a very comfortable house.

In this day's journey I counted four triumphal arches, and for the first time perceived maize, or Indian corn, in some little shops, as well as a kind of small flat beans that have been introduced into China, being as well as the maize of foreign growth. We travelled this day seventy-five *li*. The night was clear and frosty.

23. Fahrenheit's thermometer stood this morning at twenty-two degrees. We set off at half past four, and in like manner as yesterday passed through nothing but ploughed ground, with gentle elevations.

At eleven o'clock we came to the city of *Liu-tcheou-fou*, where we were carried along the outside of the ramparts. It seemed to be a very large place. We stopped in the northern suburbs to change our bearers and take some refreshments. The weather was mild, though the sun was hid in clouds. At noon we set out anew, and proceeded as far as *Tin-fau-se*, where we arrived at five o'clock, and where we passed the night. This day's journey was seventy-five *li*.

In the evening the Mandarin of *Fong-yong-fort*, who is at the head of the executive power in that province, came to pay a visit to the Ambassador and me. He wore the dark blue button, was very affable, and was at least sixty years of age. We had already been in company with him at *Yu-ching-chen*, as well as with the *On-tcha-tsu*. He brought with him a present of twenty-seven sheep-skin dresses for our soldiers and servants, and some fruit for ourselves. From him we learned that the Mandarin of *Yu-ching-chen* had lost his place on account of his conduct towards us. It would have been difficult for him to behave with greater politeness than he did, or to express greater concern at his not being able to procure us better accommodations in his district, and at our being obliged to perform so troublesome a journey in the present cold season of the year. The sheep-skin dresses were very welcome to our people. I took two of them, which I converted into bags for his Excellency and me to put our legs in while in our palanquins, and thus keep off the cold. We derived great advantage from them, especially when we also took with us a jug of hot water.

24th. In consequence of the tardiness of the *Coulis* we did not set off till half past five. Four hours after we passed through the city of *Liang-chen-chen*.

chan-chen, a place of considerable size, full of shops, and apparently very commercial. We perceived there an hexagonal tower of seven stories, and several triumphal arches.

Towards noon we came to *Ho-chan-ek*, a place of some magnitude, and left it at one o'clock. After having taken a light repast at eight, we reached *Ching-kion-ek*, another great town, appointed for our resting-place for the night.

The weather was very fine, and during the whole of the day the sun kept us company. The face of the country did not differ from that of the preceding two days: we met with scarcely any rivers, and the mountains were very remote. In the day's journey, which was at least of one hundred and ten *li*, we passed by seven triumphal arches of stone. The road was tolerably good, and we saw a number of villages and farms where the seed was already in the ground.

We overtook the four mirrors intended as a present for the Emperor; each of them was carried by twenty-four *Coulis*, and followed by as many more. These forty-eight bearers relieved each other at every half league. Hence it is easy

to conceive what the carriage of these four looking-glasses must have cost.

We saw to-day, for the first time, a cart drawn by two horses, one in the shafts, with the other a-breast. This carriage greatly resembles the covered cart of Guelderland, but is not by any means so well constructed.

As we came very late to our journey's end, it was impossible to wait till our cooks had dressed us a supper. We therefore resolved to retire to rest without eating; and in like manner as yesterday lay down upon the floor, our beds not yet being come up. The privation of wine being added to these disagreeable circumstances, the journey became unpleasant and tiresome, especially as we plainly saw that the hardships we suffered proceeded from a want of order, and from the inattention of the different Mandarins of the provinces. An incontrovertible proof of this fact is, that the Mandarins, our conductors, who depended solely upon themselves, were in want of nothing. The weather, during the night, was clear and frosty.

25th. Our departure took place at half past five, and our arrival at the city of *Ting-yun-chen* about noon. We dined there while the *Coulis* were

were changing. In that city, which is tolerably large, is an hexagonal tower of seven stories, without a top, at a small distance from the walls. We were carried to pretty good lodgings in the suburbs. At half past one, supposing the *Coulis* ready, as I had been told, I went and seated myself in my palanquin, but, after waiting half an hour, the *Lingua* came to inform me that another hour would elapse before they would present themselves, because they had not yet received their hire. On hearing this I got out of my chair, and intreated his Excellency not to go any farther this day; for I knew that the first appointed place of rendezvous was at sixty *li* distance, and, calculating that we should not reach it before eight or nine o'clock in the evening, I foresaw in that case the necessity of going supperless to bed, whereas here we had agreeable lodgings, and time sufficient for our cooks to prepare us a good repast. The Ambassador yielded to my persuasion. When our determination was known, an attempt was made to get us away by telling us that the *Coulis* were waiting for us; but as it was already half past two, we persisted in remaining where we were.

On hearing this the Mandarins came to intreat his Excellency at least to go forward thirty *li*, but in vain. M. Agie told them in Chinese, in

the Ambassador's name, that we knew by experience that the Mandarins always shortened the road when they talked to us of distances; that in consequence of this deception we arrived so late at our sleeping place, that we had not time to get a supper dressed unless we chose to sacrifice the whole of our rest, it being necessary to rise at three in the morning; that if care were regularly taken to provide bearers, the journey might be performed with ease, but having always a couple of hours to wait, without reckoning the time of changing *Coulis* at noon, we lost the three best hours of every day, and the journey became disagreeable and fatiguing; that for once people might go without eating; but that it would not do to make it a daily practice; that some of our trunks and chests, which we were in want of, were constantly behind, so that several persons had no longer any linen, and that for six days past we had not tasted a drop of wine; and, in the last place, that it behoved them to adopt a new order of things, as otherwise we dreaded lest so many privations and hardships should affect our health.

The Mandarins, having no sufficient reasons to oppose to ours, laid a great stress upon the Emperor's desire to see us before New Year's Day, and continued to insist upon the Ambassador's
going

going the thirty *li*; but though they spent a whole hour in intreaty they did not gain their end. His Excellency, however, promised to be ready to depart at three o'clock the following morning, adding, that he should proceed no farther than ninety *li*, in order that he might stop at *Lin-ouay-chen*.

They then endeavoured to play us another trick, and to carry us twenty or thirty *li* beyond that place. By way of doing so they begged us to set off at two o'clock instead of three. Suspecting their design, because it was evident that it would suffice to set off at five o'clock in order to go the ninety *li*, I told them that the Ambassador was resolved not to go beyond *Lin-ouay-chen*; that it was his wish to pass the night there, and that they had nothing to do but to weigh the matter well.

Perceiving that our opposition was systematic, and founded upon a geographical knowledge of the country, they changed their tone, and at last told us, that it would be needless to break our rest, and that a servant of our Mandarins would call us in the morning when it should be time to set off. They then retired. The old Mandarin was the person who took the greatest part in this

little dispute, and, upon going away, he gave me to understand, though in very measured terms, that his ill success was attributable to me. One of his companions was brother to the *Tsong-ion* of Canton, and had a strong resemblance to him in person.

We passed the night at *Ting-yun-chen*. The face of the country that we had seen during the day was precisely similar to that which we had had occasion to observe for several days before; but we did not meet with a single river. In the afternoon M. M. Van Braam and Dozy went without the suburbs to try some skates which had been presented to them by Mr. Browne, Chief of the English Factory, with whom they had been left by Lord Macartney. The surprise of the Chinese was so great, on seeing the ease and rapidity with which they moved over the ice, that spectators crowded from all quarters.

During the night the sky was cloudy and the cold severe.

26th. For the first time the bearers were punctual: we set off in consequence at four o'clock, and arrived a little after nine at *Hong-chau-chen*, where we stopped to take some refreshments.

refreshments. Proceeding on our journey at half past ten we came, after eight hours travelling, to *Ling-onay-chen*, where we slept, but again without a supper, because our cooks came up too late.

The ground that we went over during the morning was more uneven than that of the preceding day. In some places it was very rocky, and in others overgrown with heath. Here and there only a few cultivated spots were seen; and the houses were so thinly scattered that we travelled twenty-five *li*, without meeting a single habitation. We met with a still smaller proportion of taverns (*Conquan*), which in general are very common along the roads. Hitherto we have seen nothing so bare and wretched as this part of the country.

At two o'clock I was at the extremity of a desert of this kind, which terminated with a village of indifferent appearance, though of considerable size. Having passed the village I found myself very unexpectedly upon the summit of a very steep mountain, without my having perceived any previous ascent; but my surprise was nothing in comparison of the effect it suddenly produced upon me by the dazzling prospect which burst upon my sight, and which was rendered

dered still more beautiful by the most striking contrast that nature ever created in so small a space. I had just passed through a desert and sandy country, and now a cultivated plain of vast extent captivated my eyes. This immense landscape, of which the horizon was the only boundary, was still farther embellished by villages and hamlets scattered in every direction. The magnificent scene recalled to my mind the prospect which is seen from the celebrated spot still bearing the name of the *King's Table*, near **Rheenen**, in the province of Utrecht, and with which this view well deserves to be compared. A narrow path of rapid descent soon brought us into the plain.

The weather being mild, and the sun coming out at times, the surface of the ground thawed, which rendered the road heavy and slippery. Towards the evening it began to freeze again.

Since the preceding day the highway was become much wider and fitter for the passage of carts, the ruts of which we perceived during the whole of this morning. Willows and tall trees grow on each side of the road. In the course of the day we met with a number of horses and mules laden with merchandize. The city of

Heer-


Hong chang-chen, where we stopped to refresh, is a place of some consequence. It has two gates, but is not inclosed by walls. *Lin-ouay-chen*, where we arrived in the evening, seemed also a large place; but the darkness of the night hindered us from judging with any degree of certainty. Before we came to the latter place, and at the distance of about half a league, we saw a tower of seven stories. In approximating *Lin-ouay-chen*, the road passes over a causeway of considerable height and width. In one part of it is a very handsome stone bridge, under which the water of both sides of the causeway forms a junction. The place itself is poor, according at least to the indication of our lodgings, which were exceedingly mean.

We travelled this day one hundred and five *li* (ten leagues and an half).

His Excellency having sent word to his first conductor, that the next day he would only travel eighty *li*, the Mandarin was so much disconcerted that he came, accompanied by the second conductor, and had me waked at half past eleven o'clock. Standing by the bed side they conjured me to prevail upon the Ambassador to go as far as one hundred and twenty *li*, without
which

which he said we could not arrive at *Peking* by the appointed time; and at this they testified the greater uneasiness, because, afraid of losing their employ, and of incurring the Emperor's displeasure. I promised them my intercession; provided, in their turn, they took care to have the *Coulis* ready at an early hour, and to send our cooks on before us to the sleeping place, so that we might be sure of having a hot supper. They undertook to fulfil these obligations, to which I added that of dispatching a courier for a chest of wine and some trunks, for which several of our gentlemen had an indispensable occasion. They retired exceedingly well satisfied.

27th. At half past four we were on our way. I then perceived that the city of *Lin-ouay-chen* is greater than it had appeared to me the day before. It is situated on the bank of a large river, which we crossed by means of a bridge supported by more than fifty boats. At noon we arrived at *Hau-kiang-fo*, a village of little importance, where we stopped an hour to take some refreshment.

At two o'clock we passed over a bridge of vast length, and of the following form:  It is thrown over a river of great width, is constructed in part of hewn stone, and partly of brick; and

and extends to the length of eight hundred and five paces: its width, judging by the eye, is twenty feet. It is composed of fifteen arches, which do not follow in succession, because there are in different parts five intervals, without arches, or openings of any sort. This was the largest bridge I had yet seen in China.

At half past six we came to *Cau-chen-ek*, at which place we were to sleep, and near which we passed a river, over a kind of flying bridge, built upon boats.

During this day's journey, which was constantly enlivened by sun-shine, the road was very good, and the weather mild. Our route, for the most part, took a north north-west direction, and passed over a part of the plain that I discovered yesterday from the top of the mountain. It was all a flat without the smallest rising ground; a high degree of cultivation adorning the whole country, over which the eye wandered without obstacle or interruption.

We passed this day by *Leen-chyng-y*, which has two gates, without a rampart; and which, though larger, is not more remarkable than several other villages

villages and hamlets that we also met with on our way.

This evening our first conductor proposed to his Excellency to travel one hundred *li* in the course of the next day, and received a favourable answer.

28th. Setting off this morning at half past five, we came at half past ten to *V'ha-chan-y*, a miserable place where we stopped to refresh. Proceeding again on our journey an hour afterwards, we arrived about five o'clock, just as the sun was going down, at the city of *Sieou-tcheon*, which completed the one hundred and five *li* of this day's journey.

The road we travelled over to-day may be considered as the best we have hitherto met with. Like that of yesterday, it took nearly a north north-west direction, and was equally flat and free from rising grounds; but the soil is less productive, being a very light sort of mould. The villages and hamlets made accordingly but an indifferent appearance. This effect was even perceptible at *Sieou-tcheon*, the interior of which is by no means brilliant, there being nothing to
be

be seen but small houses, and disagreeable streets. It is, however, a place of considerable size, and surrounded by ramparts. At some distance from the town stands a lofty tower; and upon the rampart itself, at a small distance from the gate by which we entered, is a building three stories high, in all probability a belfry. Our lodgings were spacious and tolerably convenient.

I saw to-day a four-wheeled carriage drawn by oxen, and much resembling the pastry-cook's sledges (*traineaux de gâteaux*) set upon wheels at Amsterdam. The wheels of the Chinese cart are only two feet and an half in diameter; each of them being made of a single piece of wood, and the whole four being of the same size. The body of the cart is consequently close to the ground. This carriage serves equally for the conveyance of persons and goods, as well as to carry into the fields the manure intended to render them productive.

I had also an opportunity of remarking another useful addition to the barrow described in this work. It consists of two pieces of wood fixed in the internal angle, which the two feet of the barrow form with its sides. They are so placed, that they divide this right angle in two equal parts,

and come close to the wheel, in order to detach the earth that may adhere to it, which renders the labour of the barrow-men less than it would otherwise be. This idea, and that of having introduced the two pieces of wood turned up at the extremity, which the barrow-man before lays hold of with the under part of his arms, at the same time that they serve him as a handle to draw the barrow after him, shews to what a degree of perfection they have carried it.

Yesterday I saw only a single honorary arch, and this day no more than four, which seems to indicate that this part of the country has not abounded in persons whose virtues have been found worthy of commemoration.

This evening our first conductor came to visit the Ambassador and me, in order to arrange our journey for next day. He fixed it at a hundred and ten *li*.

29th. We set off at four o'clock, and at half past nine arrived at the town of *Y-cauy*, where we breakfasted. Departing again an hour afterwards, we reached *Tau-chan-ek* at five; and, as we had gone a hundred and twenty *li*, staid there to sleep.

Our

Our route was over a plain, but from nine in the morning there were mountains at no great distance before us. The road was every where good, was carried over level ground, and took a direction from north-east to north north-west. We passed through nothing but poor villages and hamlets of mean appearance.

We crossed, however, three rivers, over one of which was a noble stone bridge; and at nine o'clock traversed a valley overgrown with reeds.

Near *Tau-chan-ek* is a hill of moderate elevation; upon the declivity of which stand a convent, and a pagoda surrounded by trees, and in a delightful situation. To the detail of this day's route I have to add our meeting with five triumphal arches of hewn stone.

30th. Our journey began again at five o'clock. We were constantly amidst mountains till eight o'clock, when we ascended a rocky gorge, formed by an interval left between two of them. As soon as we reached the summit, we enjoyed a delightful prospect of a valley. It is interspersed with graves, among which are a great number overshadowed by little groves of cypresses. Others are surmounted by stone monuments, and others

by triumphal arches. This variety, by occupying the eye, almost banishes from the mind every idea of the mournful destination of the place.

To the eastward of the valley, and upon a hill of little elevation stands an hexagonal tower of eight stories, in very good preservation. Some buildings and trees, situated near the bottom of this tower, seem to indicate a pagoda and a convent.

We crossed the valley in order to ascend the rugged side of a mountain, on the tabular summit of which stands a great fort, or square castle, kept in the best state of repair.

Having climbed up the mountain's side, my eyes were again delighted with the picturesque prospect that presented itself almost suddenly before me, and of which I shall not undertake to describe the beauties. It was a view of a valley still more extensive than that with which I have already found it so grateful to entertain my readers. A large portion of it is occupied by the meanders of a noble river, which seems to take a pleasure in winding through it, while its banks, embellished by houses or boats, gives new charms to this enchanting spot. To the north, the view
takes

takes in the city of *Sin-tcheou*; and at the western extremity of the valley begins an assemblage of houses ranged along the declivity of a mountain. This valley is, at the same time, covered like the preceding one with thousands of proofs that it is devoted to those who are no more. A little elevation, in the shape of a round hillock of about seven feet diameter, and three or four feet high, is the usual indication of their funereal abodes, excepting the small number of those which, as I have already said, are designated by monuments of stone. These two vallies exhibited a greater number of tombs than all the other places appropriated to the same purpose that had hitherto come in our way. They might with propriety be called *the dwelling of the dead*.

Near *Sin-tcheou* we met with three more triumphal arches, two of which surpassed in beauty all those we had hitherto seen.

Close to the side of the road we saw an inscription engraved upon a large stone, supported by a vast tortoise also cut out of a single block.

I was three quarters of an hour in passing through the city. I perceived it to be populous, and full of shops of all kinds, and thence con-

cluded it to be a very commercial place. At ten o'clock I arrived at the house prepared for our reception, which was one of the handsomest we had yet been in.

We dined at *Siu-tcheon*, where we desired to have a pudding made of millet. The abundance of that grain suggested the idea to me, and we found the pudding much to our taste. Millet is here the common food of the people instead of rice, the ground not being fit for grain of a larger kind. The contrary reason is the cause of its not being cultivated in the southern parts of the Empire. This was the first time I had seen any in China.

In consequence of the promises of the Mandarins we expected to change our travelling carriages at *Siu-tcheon*, and to be furnished with litters borne by mules; but as the use of them was unknown in the roads we were travelling through, it was plain they had promised more than they could perform. They were accordingly obliged to declare, that notwithstanding all their endeavours, they had not been able to procure us litters, no such thing being known, except a few kept by very rich individuals for long journeys. No Mandarin had one in his possession.

To

To supply the want of them, they had provided three or four carts which they came and offered to the Ambassador and me; but we declined availing ourselves of their kindness, and contented ourselves with our chairs; abandoning the carts to any of our gentlemen, who might be tempted to make use of them. They were on the other side of the river.

At two o'clock we seated ourselves in our palanquins, and, after quitting the city, passed the river in ferry boats. It is very wide, and the quantity of ice that floated down with the current rendered the passage exceedingly difficult. The consequence was, that it was three o'clock before we reached the opposite bank. We then proceeded on our journey, but not without again having a little dispute with the *Coulis*.

Our gentlemen, who felt inclined to make use of the carriages, went to examine them; but their inclination soon left them when they saw that they were common baggage carts, with nothing to serve as a seat but the straw that was spread at the bottom. Never had so clumsy and inconvenient a carriage presented itself to their eyes in Holland; and a single glance was enough to make them prefer riding on horseback, mi-

ferable as were the jades on which they were mounted.

These carts are, however, the ordinary carriages in this part of the country, and throughout the provinces of *Tché-li* and *Chang-ton*. The first Mandarins themselves travel in them, as we had afterwards occasion to be convinced.

In the afternoon we passed over a handsome bridge entirely built of hewn stone. The road over it is almost level from one end to the other, and serves as a communication between two sides of a valley. Its width is about thirty-five feet, and its length about eight hundred toises. It consists of a hundred of those openings without arches already mentioned in this work, and has a stone balustrade on each side nearly two feet in height, and ornamented at every four or five yards, with the figure of a lion *couchant* of very rude sculpture. At this time the diminished stream ran through three or four of the most central openings, it being now the season when the rivers in China are at their smallest height; but it is natural to presume, that during the rainy season, the river, by rising three or four feet, must overflow all the level ground; for certainly so extensive, and so costly a work would not otherwise have been erected,

erected. At each extremity of the bridge is a magnificent triumphal arch with the great ways, or passages through it. By the side of each of these arches is a kind of open hexagonal pavilion, in the midst of which a stone is deposited, bearing an inscription in honour of the architect of the bridge.

After having travelled a hundred and five *li*, we arrived at half past seven in the evening at the town of *Li-cok-ek*, where we met with but an indifferent place of refuge for the night. A millet pudding was our whole supper, and the floor our bed.

31st. We did not set off to-day till seven o'clock. During the morning we travelled over a plain, crossing three or four branches of a river, and only perceiving mountains at a very remote distance. At ten o'clock the poor and simple village of *Long-chong* afforded us a refreshing place. We stopped there a full hour.

In the afternoon, at a small distance to the westward, we perceived a very extensive lake, whence arises a river which runs through *Tong-y-lau*, at which place we crossed over it by a small bridge of boats.

Our road passed constantly between ploughed fields, containing a great number of graves, some of which are marked by cypresses. In the midst of one field I remarked a stone monument, supported by a tortoise, like that I had noticed on the preceding day.

In this part of the country we met with a kind of wheel-barrow, much larger than that I have already described, and drawn by a horse or mule.

But how great was my surprize when I this day saw a whole fleet of wheel-barrowes, all of the same size. I have good reason to call them a fleet, for they were all under sail; having a little mast very neatly inserted in a hole or step cut in the forepart of the barrow. To this mast is attached a sail made of matting, or more commonly of canvas, five or six feet high, and three or four wide, with reefs, yards, and braces, like those of the Chinese boats. The braces lead to the shafts of the barrow, and by means of them the conductor trims his sail.

It was easy to perceive by all this apparatus that it was not a mere momentary matter, but an additional contrivance in the carriage, and meant to give relief to the barrow-men when
the

the wind is fair; for otherwise considering the money it must cost, and the trouble of carrying it, it would be but a very ridiculous whim.

I could not help admiring this contrivance, and I felt real pleasure in seeing a score of these sailing barrows rolling along one after another.

At four o'clock in the afternoon we entered the province of *Chan-tong*; and at half past five, having this day travelled eighty *li* (eight leagues), we came to *Shau-can-ing*, where we met with very tolerable accommodations for the night.

We this evening made some more strict arrangements with our Mandarins, in order to quicken our journey, because it appeared difficult for us, without doing so, to arrive at *Pe-king* at the appointed time.

During the last three days I observed in all the cities, villages, and other places that stood by the highway a great number of old castles calculated to protect some external point, of the same kind as those that formerly existed in Holland. There were sometimes as many as three in the same place.

As the Chinese carry on wars without cannon, these citadels may serve as a defence, and seem intended to protect the inhabitants from parties in search of plunder.

I have also observed within these few days a number of orchards very regularly planted, and this day I saw a couple of grey-hounds.

THE YEAR 1795.

JANUARY I.

ACCORDING to our agreement with the Mandarin we were on our way at three o'clock in the morning. I had again reason to complain of my bearers, who let me fall several times. At length my palanquin was in so bad a condition that at half past twelve I was obliged to quit it and go on foot to the first place where we were to stop. It was the village of *Kay-hau*, where I arrived at two o'clock, and found that his Excellency and the other gentlemen had already left it. As my palanquin could not be repaired very speedily, I wished to pass the night at *Kay-hau*, but the Mandarin of the town sent me his own cart, with the most earnest entreaties to go on. Resolving at length to do so I set off at four o'clock, but did not reach the rendezvous appointed

appointed for the night till after I had been near five hours upon the road. It was the city of *Tseo-chen*. We were lodged there in a building adjoining to the Temple of *Mong-fou-tsu*, the most eminent of their philosophers after *Kong-fou-tsu* (*Confucius*).

We had travelled a hundred and seventy *li*, and all to have no beds, and to be again obliged to stretch ourselves upon the floor, although I desired a soft bed more ardently than I had ever done before, because I had not ceased to be jolted, and shaken for four hours and a half in that horrible cart, and was in pain from head to foot. Such a carriage may possibly be convenient to a Chinese, but to a European it must ever be a real punishment.

The city of *Tseo-chen*, which contains a lofty tower and several triumphal arches, is no otherwise remarkable. Its houses bespeak poverty, and this characteristic is also that of the villages we this day passed through, which make a very miserable appearance. The temple near which we were lodged is almost the only ornament of the city, being kept in very good repair notwithstanding its extent, and that of its dependencies.

In

In the court-yard opposite the great hall of adoration of this temple are two cypresses, which are said to have seen four centuries. One of them has all its leaves, and is at least a foot and a half in diameter; the top of the other announces decay. In the street fronting the fore-court stand two very large triumphal arches of superior workmanship, erected in honour of the great philosopher to whom the temple is dedicated.

In the morning our road ceased to be mountainous; and we afterwards passed along plains intersected by a number of rivulets. The villages and hamlets were become more numerous than on the preceding days. The road was also more frequented, both by men and carts which passed us incessantly.

2d. This morning we set off at four o'clock.

The Mandarin of the city sent me one of his old sedan chairs to serve me during the rest of the journey, and till I should have an opportunity on my return of taking my own again, which was to be repaired in the mean time.

We were constantly in the midst of ploughed fields, and passed through several wretched villages.

lag 8. At nine o'clock we arrived at the suburbs of *Yen-tcheou-fou*, and stopped there to take some refreshment. Being carried along the ramparts on the outside, I could see nothing of the interior of the city, except the gate. The ramparts themselves were of considerable circuit; and kept in good repair. This place boasts of having been the birth-place of the great *Kong-fou-tsu* (Confucius), which makes me presume that it contains a temple and other monuments erected in honour of that celebrated man.

At less than half a league before our arrival at *Yen-tcheou-fou* we crossed a large river, over which is a very handsome stone bridge, thirty-four feet wide, and kept in good repair. I had no opportunity of seeing or counting the arches.

Proceeding on our journey at ten o'clock, we arrived before sun-set at *Ouen-chang-chen*, in the suburbs of which our lodgings were situated.

The distance we travelled to-day was a hundred and forty *li*, through ploughed fields, in like manner as the preceding day, but without having seen any thing curious. The city of *Ouen-chang-chen*, which contains a very lofty tower, is surrounded with handsome walls, almost

new. It appears a large place. Over one of its gates is a handsome edifice two stories high, as is the case with almost all the gates of Chinese cities.

Setting off at four in the morning, we reached at nine the suburbs of *Tong-king-tcheou*, where we stopped for an hour, at a miserable public-house, to refresh and change our bearers. We afterwards went through the city in a right line from one gate to another, which includes the space of five *li* (half a league); but the street is more like the common road of a village than part of a great city. The houses, like those of poor hamlets, are built of dry clay, and covered with roofs of straw or turf; many of them are, besides, in ruins, and consequently still worse than the above description. Were it not, in short, for its ramparts, there would be no conceiving why *Tong-king-tcheou* assumes the title of a city.

After having left it at some distance behind us, we passed a river which at this time was almost dry. Over the bed of it, however, stands a very ancient bridge of twenty-eight arches, and of a form altogether Gothic. Some parts of it are built of stone and others of brick; but
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it is so much damaged above that it no longer affords a safe passage.

We afterwards passed several mountains; and at four o'clock in the afternoon came to the city of *Tong-ngo-chen*, where we were again to change our *Coulis*, and where we were conducted to an handsome *conquan*. Upon the whole, however, this city would not be superior to its neighbour *Tong-ting-tcheou*, were it not for the good condition of its ramparts and its gates, which appear to have been built but a very few years.

After passing through this city we met with no mountains, but travelled constantly across a plain till half past eight that we arrived at the town of *Fong-ching-ek*, having gone one hundred and sixty *li* (sixteen leagues).

This evening the *On-tcha-tsu* of the province came to pay a visit to the Ambassador and myself, to ask after our health, and to enquire if he could be of any use to us, having received orders from the court of *Pe-king* to do every thing to render our journey agreeable. We expressed to him our gratitude for his kind attention, and assured him that we had no occasion to trouble him. After this short conversation he went away.

The

The narrative of our journey may give some idea of the punctuality with which the Emperor's orders for our accommodation on the journey were executed; but as the Mandarins had not sufficient authority over the *Coulis* to ensure their obedience, it is easy to see to what class of people we owe the frequent inconveniences we meet with on our road.

4th. We set off at a quarter past three, and at half past eight came to the suburbs of *Yin-king-chen*, where we changed our bearers. At ten o'clock we proceeded on our journey, and passed through that city, where every thing reminded us of the two last, even to the very ramparts, the only thing that merited observation.

At eleven o'clock a Mandarin of the blue transparent button came to meet us on horseback. His sole intention was to pay his respects to us, and he returned as soon as he had fulfilled it. He had, no doubt, given orders at the military post to salute the Ambassador with three guns when he should pass; for it was the first time that this compliment had been paid him since we were travelling over land.

Half past four we arrived at the city of *Kao-tang-tcheou*, of which we saw only the outside,

but we remarked the ramparts, which were in good condition, and an octagonal tower of twelve stories, the highest I had hitherto seen. Two triumphal arches were erected, between which the garrison was drawn up in two lines. We were carried through the ranks; and at each triumphal arch were saluted with three guns.

We were conducted to a pretty good house in the northern suburbs, whither the Mandarin who had paid his compliments to us on horseback, came to repeat his assurances of consideration, and to beg us to proceed forty *li*. Willing to gratify him in this respect we set off again, and at half past nine came to the town of *Ji-on-chan*, having travelled at least one hundred and sixty *li*.

All this road was through ploughed land, of which the soil, generally speaking, is more meagre than what we had lately seen, and consequently requires a greater quantity of manure. Cattle seemed scarce in this part of the country; and I had already remarked, for some days before, that a great many men and children go out with little baskets and forks to collect the dung scattered upon the road. They then lay it by the side of their houses, in order to mix it with
earth,

earth, and thus make a compost, with which they afterwards enrich their fields.

In several spots of cultivated ground we perceived a number of cedars and groves of cypresses planted round sepulchres. It appears the Chinese, like the Greeks and Romans, consider this tree as sacred to the dead, no doubt because its perpetual verdure affords a shade under which the wandering manes may reside.

The villages and hamlets that we met with continued to make a poor appearance, presenting no objects to the eye but miserable huts in a state of decay. Even the very pagodas, situated upon level ground, are in general in ruins, and in a great measure abandoned. From all the observations we have been able to make on several cities, we are warranted to conclude that the greater part of them are nothing but large spaces inclosed with walls, of which a very small portion is built upon. This wall gives them from without an importance which does not really belong to them, at least according to European ideas.

In the whole province of *Chan-tong* the houses are built of dried clay, consequently they cannot

be very solid, and must necessarily suffer damage in time of rain. At the same time, as this mode of construction is common to the cities as well as the country places, it is by no means astonishing that in the former so much rubbish and so many ruins should be seen.

It appears that carts and wheel-barrows are the only carriages known in this province, either for the conveyance of persons or goods. If the cart were not so small and hung so low upon the wheels, which are not of more than four feet diameter, and which are of singular form, it might be compared to the Hessian cart; but the felloes of the wheel are at least six inches deep, and, in the direction of a whole diameter, is a large piece of wood, more than six inches square, crossing the axle, while two other pieces of wood, shorter and thinner than that I have just spoken of, cross it in their turn at right angles, and are inserted at each end in the corresponding felloes. The axle, of which the end is square, is let into the first of these three pieces, so that the axle and wheels all turn together. This will be rendered more intelligible by the engraving.

These carts in general are drawn by five oxen, horses, or mules; and not unfrequently all these three kinds of cattle are seen harnessed to the same carriage. The strongest beast is placed between the shafts, and another is placed abreast of him, while the remaining three go before, at the end of long poles. The driver directs them with his voice, without making use of a bridle. Sometimes, however, he enforces with the long whip the orders that are not readily attended to, or executed with sufficient promptitude.

For some day's past I have seen large flocks of sheep led into the fields to feed. They seemed very common in this part of the country.

5th. We set off at five o'clock, and in the course of the morning passed through *Nghen-chen*. This city bears evident marks of decay in every part except in the walls round it, which are new, and in a magnificent gate, over which is an edifice two stories high, loaded with ornaments, and covered with yellow varnished tiles.

At two in the afternoon we came to the suburbs of *Té-tcheou*, where we took a slight repast and changed our *Coutis*. There is nothing

curious in the city except the tower. The streets are bad, the houses plain and mean, but the wall or rampart is here again in a good state of repair.

On leaving *Té-tcheou*, we passed a great river, the banks of which were crowded with at least three hundred vessels, although there is but a small depth of water. These vessels were almost all loaded with rice, were destined for *Pé-king*, and were lying here, as in a place of refuge, against the breaking up of the ice.

Towards the evening we passed out of the province we had been travelling through into that of *Tché-li*, and at eight o'clock reached our lodgings in the suburbs of *King-tcheou*, having travelled this day one hundred and sixty li.

During the morning our road lay over uneven ground, but in the afternoon we came to a flat country. The soil seemed poor, and the villages and hamlets made a wretched appearance.

6th. We set off at four o'clock, and at half past eight reached the city of *Fau-ching-chen*, where we breakfasted, and were delayed till twelve o'clock by the time lost in changing
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Coulis. In regard to this the conduct of the Mandarin of the city was deemed so extraordinary by our second conductor, that he thought proper to pay him publicly with a few cuffs, which foreboded that he would lose his place into the bargain. We found it impossible to arrive at *Hien-chen* before eight o'clock in the evening. It was expected that we should go on, but the arrangements respecting *Coulis* having delayed us, his Excellency preferred passing the night there.

We travelled this day a hundred and ten *li* (ten leagues) over a flat country.

One of our conductors sent us this evening, in the name of the old Mandarin of *Chan-tong*, two red furred cloaks for the Ambassador and me, and twenty-seven other *pelisses* for the rest of the gentlemen and persons of our suite. Every one of us heartily welcomed a present of the value of which we were made highly sensible by the cold, which was become very severe, especially in the morning.

Our lodgings and supper were here equally bad.

7th. We set off at three o'clock in the morning by moon-light, which enabled us to see that the city of *Hien-chen* was in very bad condition, and that in every part of it houses of baked clay were lying in ruins upon the ground.

At three quarters past eight we reached *Ho-kien-fou*, where we were received in a public edifice, the grandeur of which inspired the mind with awe. Breakfast and a change of *Coulis* were the occasion of this halt. Notwithstanding the beauty of this edifice, the town is rather a heap of ruins than an inhabited place; and although it is classed among the cities of the first rank, not a quarter of the space it occupies is built upon.

I was desirous of knowing the cause of its being in this deserted state, and was told, that at the time of the great inundations which did so much damage in the province during the preceding year, this town had been overflowed, and had suffered exceedingly.

At eleven o'clock we proceeded on our journey, and met with several pagodas entirely in ruins. Several rivers and streams intersected our route till eleven o'clock, when we came to
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the town of *Lin-chon-sing*, where we took new bearers to carry us sixty *li* further on.

It was eight o'clock before we set off. We passed a lake of considerable extent, in the midst of which the road passes in a straight line, which takes an hour and a half's good walking. In that space we passed over nine stone bridges, and through a village built upon an island seated in the midst of the lake. At half past one in the morning we came to *Hiong-chen*, where, without getting any supper, we took a little rest in a miserable inn, after a day's journey of a hundred and eighty *li*. Our gentlemen not finding a relay of horses at the last stage, were obliged, in order to get on, to put up with common carts. Fortunately our journey draws towards an end, for such fatigue would soon become insupportable in so severe a season.

8th. We set off at half past four, and passed through the city of *Hiong-chen*, which is of considerable magnitude, and makes a better appearance than those that had preceded it. Our road lay through a country entirely flat, and at half past eleven we arrived at the city of *Sin-ching-chen*, where we were conducted to a most wretched public-house. I refused to enter it, in consequence of
which

which we turned back, and were carried to a handsome public edifice at a little distance, where his Excellency had already stopped; because, upon my expressing a repugnance to alight at the wretched place where I had arrived before the rest of the party, somebody had gone to meet his Excellency, in order that he might be conducted to that asylum.

We took there a dish of tea and some fruit, and then, changing our bearers, set off again at a quarter past one, passing through the city, which was distinguished by nothing curious, and was not even deserving to be compared to a Dutch village.

We continued our journey through a flat country of little fertility; and at three quarters past six came to the suburbs of *Tjo-tcheon*, where we found an excellent *Conquan*. As to supper we were obliged to content ourselves with eggs and a little rice. The day's journey was a hundred and ten *li*. The other gentlemen, thanks to the carts, did not arrive till a little before eleven, complaining bitterly of their disagreeable vehicles.

9th. At three o'clock in the morning we were again upon the road. We passed through
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the city of *Tso-tcheon*, which we judged to be very commercial from the great number of shops it contained. About half way through it was a large building, standing over an arched gateway, thirty-six paces wide in the clear. This is, doubtless, the place where the commandant of the town takes his station in case of an attack, in order to extend his view over every quarter, and to give his orders in consequence. After leaving the town we passed over a handsome stone bridge, about thirty feet wide, and nine hundred and sixty paces long. In the middle it is arched for about two hundred yards, while the two ends or extremities have no perceptible rise. Not being able to see the side of the bridge while I was passing over it, it was impossible for me to count the arches, and the fear of losing time did not permit me to stop.

In the afternoon we passed two other bridges, also of stone, one two hundred, the other a hundred yards long.

The ground we went over was broken, and of a sterile appearance, while mountains closed our prospect to the westward.

At

At half past nine we came to *Liang-liang-chen*, a very miserable city, through which we passed after having stopped an hour at a wretched inn while waiting for other bearers. Without the town is a tower of six stories, the only thing worthy of remark. We afterwards passed through *Lo-ko-ki-ou*, a place consisting of one very long street, full of shops. Its numerous population announces a great trade. Thence we proceeded to the little city *Fee-ching-se*, a place of handsome appearance, because its walls, its houses, and its gates are kept in good repair.

Near this city is a bridge of hewn stone of uncommon beauty. Its length is two hundred and sixteen paces, and at each end stands an open pavilion, the roofs of which are of yellow varnished tiles. In the centre of these pavilions are stones bearing inscriptions in honour of the architect of the bridge. The river, which is very wide at this place, was frozen to a great depth.

A little beyond the bridge is a large and noble square edifice, with a double roof, also covered with yellow varnished tiles, and decorated with a great number of ornaments. It is a temple erected by the Emperor to one of the gods by whom he thinks himself protected. We there

met with whole troops of dromedaries, either going towards the capital or returning thence. I had already seen a few in the morning, but these last were exceedingly numerous. Many of them were carrying charcoal, but their load was so small that I was perfectly astonished at it.

At some distance beyond *Fee-ching-se* we passed a great valley of sand, where our bearers found it very laborious walking. When at the end of it, we came to the paved road which continues to the gates of *Pe-king*, that is to say, a distance of fifteen *li* (a league and a half). At the beginning of the road stands a noble triumphal arch of stone, with three passages, magnificently decorated with a variety of ornaments. A little on one side of this gate, and at the fifth *li* from the beginning of the road, are two uniform pavilions, of a square form, double roofed, with yellow varnished tiles, and ornamented in parts with sculpture well executed and entirely gilt. The light of the sun striking upon the roofs produced a splendid effect, and reflected the most brilliant rays from the buildings. They are preserved with the greatest care.

I estimate

I estimate the width of the pavement at thirty feet. It is composed of masses of a heavy and hard stone, twelve feet long by fourteen inches broad, and as much thick. This road is well contrived for the continual passage of carts carrying heavy loads, and but for its extraordinary solidity would have been ruined long ago.

It is scarcely possible to imagine the immense number of dromedaries, horses, carts, and mules we met upon the road, or the surprising sensation the whole view excited in our minds. It announced in the most striking manner the vicinage of the Imperial residence.

At three o'clock, being at no great distance from the city, we were taken into a pagoda, to wait for the return of our conductors, who had gone on the evening before to inform the Prime Minister of our approach. Our conductors not returning after the lapse of an hour, we were again seated in our palanquins in order to proceed. We observed on the road side, at a small distance from the gate, an octagonal tower, divided into two portions, the lower of which consisted of only one story, while the upper one was of thirteen, a mode of construction altogether novel to me.

At

At half past four we came to the gate of the suburbs of *Pe-king*. On entering them I was surprized to find that the street was without any pavement, while there was so fine a one in the highway without. This street, which runs in a straight line, is more than a hundred feet wide.

The houses, which stand on both sides, are equally destitute of regularity in form and position; and the very small number of handsome shops to be met with frequently stand next to miserable hovels.

After having proceeded along this street for about three quarters of an hour in an eastern direction, and having followed another that turned off to the north for about ten minutes, we arrived at the gate of the city of *Chun-ting-foa*, or *Pe-king*, sometimes called also *King-tching*. The suburbs are called *Agany-lau-tching*.

The gate of *Pe-king*, like that of its suburbs, is guarded externally by a bastion of semi-circular form, the passage through which is defended by four very strong gates, thickly plated with iron, and occurring in the space of twenty-four yards; that being the thickness of the bastion.

The entrance of the city itself, through the ramparts, is, on the contrary, only protected by a single door plated with iron, though the length of the passage is no less than thirty paces. Above the ramparts, at the place where they overlook the entrance of the city, is an edifice of the form of an oblong square, of three stories, and, according to my estimate, of at least sixty feet in breadth. Each story has twelve small embrasures for cannon.

We had not proceeded far through this gate when the *Coulis* set us down in the street, no doubt to wait for orders as to the place whither we were to be conveyed: this at least I thought I perceived to be the case. In effect such orders came a few minutes afterwards, directing us to be taken back to the suburbs, which was accordingly done. As soon as we got out of the town the gates were shut upon us, as is constantly the custom at sun-set.

We were carried a little way beyond the gates of the city to a *Conquan* or public-house generally frequented by carmen, some of whose horses we perceived already in the stables. Indignant at treatment so little conformable to the character of an Ambassador, and finding
his

his Excellency impressed with the same sentiment, I insisted on being carried to better lodgings, but was told in answer that no better were to be had.

Shortly after two of the Mandarins, our conductors, came to tell us that they had announced our arrival to the Prime Minister; that lodgings were prepared for us in the city, but that we could not occupy them till the next day, because the gates were shut.

They made us many apologies for the badness of our inn, assuring us that it was impossible to find another in all the suburbs, and adducing, as a proof of their assertions, the necessity they were under of taking refuge there themselves. We were consequently obliged to submit.

The Mandarins ordered some viands to be brought us cooked in the Chinese way, but we contented ourselves with a little fruit; and, after a day's journey of more than a hundred and twenty *li* (twelve leagues), found ourselves obliged to sleep in our clothes upon the floor. Our other gentlemen were not more fortunate in their way of passing the night.

Thus, on our arrival at the celebrated residence of the Emperor, we were lodged in a kind of stable! Who could have expected such an adventure! No where, in the whole course of our journey by land, did we experience so many inconveniences as in the province of *Tche-li*.

10th. Early in the morning all the persons attached to the Embassy, who also put up last night at a stable, to say nothing of the two preceding ones, which they passed in carts, came to join us. As soon as the gates were open our conductors went again into town, and returned at nine o'clock, bringing with them carts for his Excellency and me. They begged us to get in that we might be conveyed to our proper lodgings, whither the rest of the persons of the Embassy would repair in the carts in which they had travelled. We accordingly seated ourselves in our new vehicles.

They are only intended to carry a single person. The outside is neat and covered with cloth, and in the sides are little windows, by means of which the person within can see every thing while sitting on a cushion laid in the bottom of the carriage, according to the Chinese custom.

Thus

Thus seated we were carried through the city, followed by the whole diplomatic train. The street, which is as wide as that of the suburbs, is paved in the middle for the width of about thirty feet. The houses are only one or at most two stories high, agreeably to the usage in China, and like those of the suburb are not built in a regular line, which hurts the eye exceedingly; but this also is a Chinese prejudice.

In general, however, the houses in the city have a respectability of appearance of which those in the suburbs cannot boast, and there are even shops of which the fronts are decorated with carvings or sculpture in wood or stone, and gilt or varnished from top to bottom. The street, even in the parts that were not paved, was covered with tents, under which the shopkeepers displayed all that the loom can produce, as well as provisions and goods of every other kind, which gave it, to us, exactly the appearance of a fair; and the great concourse of people, assembled in European towns on such occasions, is an additional trait of resemblance. This spectacle, the noise of carriages, horses, mules, and dromedaries; the assemblage of so many men and animals; the appearance of new dresses, manners, and faces; every thing, in

short, put in its claim upon my curiosity, and captivated my attention.

After driving for a quarter of an hour with considerable rapidity, we passed a noble stone bridge of five arches, built over a spot where the water was frozen. From this bridge we had a fine view of part of the edifices composing the Imperial palace, which was at no great distance, and through which the water under the bridge takes its course. A few minutes after quitting this bridge, at each end of which is a large and handsome triumphal arch, built of wood, with three gateways, our little carts stopped in a narrow street, where our lodgings were situated. We were immediately going to alight, but were requested to wait in our carriages because the house was in confusion, there not having been time to put it in order. We were strangely astonished at this proposition, and were again obliged to recur to our great remedy—patience.

After waiting an hour we were requested to alight and walk into the house. We found it passable, and pretty well laid out, but in the Chinese way, that is to say, all divided into little apartments, and, besides, badly swept, and covered with dust. As soon as each of us knew
what

what apartment he was to occupy the servants were employed in making them more decent, and in cleaning the floors and benches. We had mats laid over the former, which were of stone, but in the mean time we suffered much from the severity of the cold, and although we expressed our sensibility in that respect, it was an age before we could obtain a little fire; or procure the other things that we were most in want of. Nothing was to be found without a great deal of trouble, and upon our expressing our astonishment at this want of preparation, the apology was that we were not expected before New Year's Day. Such was the consequence of a letter dispatched by our first conductor to the *Voo-tchong-tang*, ten or twelve days ago, in which he told him, that being overtaken by bad weather, it was probable our journey to *Pe-king* could not be brought to a termination by the appointed time. The arrangement of our lodgings had therefore been deferred. It seems, however, that as we were expected, it would have been more prudent and more decent at the same time not to have put it off till the last moment. On the other hand it must be confessed that two hours suffice to arrange every thing in a Chinese house, and they had no idea of preparing it for us in the European fashion.

Notwithstanding all we suffered from the cold, we were obliged with our own hands to put every thing in order that we wished to be so.

One thing remarkably fortunate is our all arriving at *Pe-king* in good health. A strong argument may be thence drawn in favour of our constitutions, since they resisted such severe and such long continued fatigue. Our five gentlemen, and M. Petit-Pierre, the mechanist, travelled from a hundred and twenty to a hundred and eighty *li* (from twelve to eighteen leagues) a day for eighteen days successively on horses, whose frequent falls kept them in continual fear of breaking an arm or a leg. There being afterwards a want of horses, they were obliged to travel in carts, too short for them to lie down, and too narrow to hold two persons, though two were often obliged to get into them, because the number of individuals exceeded that of the carts, of which the only covering consisted of a mat of bamboo. Add to this an encreasing intensity of cold, both because we were going northward, and because the winter season advanced; and some judgment may be formed of the cruel hardship of setting off at so early an hour of the morning, especially at the end of our journey, which was hurried on more than
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the preceding part. One week more; and we should probably have been the victims of sickness, or at least of considerable indisposition; for every one of us already discovered symptoms of an impaired state of health, though none of us were positively ill. The want of rest, the change of aliments, and the privation of those which long habit had rendered necessary to us, had diminished the corpulence of the whole party. To give a better idea of this, I can truly say that the circumference of my body was diminished at least five inches.

Thanks to him who watches over every thing; not one of those is missing at the ultimate period of our destination who set off with the hope of reaching it.

My observation applies also to our Chinese servants, for they are still more sensible of cold than Europeans; and as their ears are particularly subject to be frost bitten, these inhabitants of the south have wisely imitated the example of their northern countrymen, by covering them with caps lined with fur. They took this precaution from our first entrance into the province of *Chen-tung*, and by these means preserved the organ of hearing from all accident.

As it was presumed that we should have no dinner cooked, a great number of dishes were brought from the Imperial kitchen, which allayed our hunger while our little arrangements were making, and victuals were providing. As a specimen of the latter, the viands that were to compose our supper were furnished us immediately after.

Chairs, tables, and a kind of brazier to warm our apartments, according to the custom of the country, were also brought us. By means of these succours, we were enabled to wait without impatience for the hour of repose.

In the afternoon we received the individual congratulation of several Mandarins upon our arrival, and our first conductor came to acquaint us, on the part of the Prime Minister, that his Imperial Majesty would on the 12th receive his Excellency and me, as well as all the persons of the suite, and that we must all keep ourselves in readiness against that day.

At an early hour we took a light supper, and then retired to rest, in order to overcome our fatigue by a sound and grateful sleep, an enjoyment we had been deprived of ever since we had

ceased to travel by water, and consequently for a whole month.

11th. His Majesty sent a fine sturgeon by two principal Mandarins as a present to the Ambassador. It was at least twelve feet long, weighed two hundred pounds, and was entirely frozen. It was a mark of distinguished favour, that fish being reserved for the Emperor, and such of his favourites as eat it receiving it from him. Great care was taken to relate to us all these particulars, and to add, that his Majesty treated us more favourably than the English who came last year to *Pe-king*, since so signal an honour was never conferred upon them. According to the custom of the country, his Excellency and I performed the salute of honour to the Emperor, by way of expressing our gratitude both for his attention and his magnificent present.

In the morning, several other principal Mandarins came to remind us again that it was the Emperor's desire to see us the next day, and to tell us to repair in consequence to the palace at five o'clock in the morning. As the greater part of our baggage was not arrived, and none of our gentlemen had with them proper clothes

to appear in, we informed the Mandarins of these circumstances, and requested that, in consideration of the present deplorable state of their wardrobe, they might be excused from attending us to court. This reason, however plausible, had no effect. The Mandarins made answer, that his Imperial Majesty was well acquainted with our situation: that he did not want to see our clothes, but our persons, in order to be fully convinced that we enjoyed perfect health after so fatiguing a journey, and that he required us all to appear at court. Seeing no means of eluding this request, we at last promised that we would all shew ourselves, and with this assurance the Mandarins retired well satisfied.

Afterwards came other Mandarins in the name of the *Voo-ichang-tang*, or Prime Minister, to ask for a French translation of the letter written by the Commissaries General of Batavia to the Emperor. I made one, as well as of the list of presents, and both were given to our first conductor, in order to their being delivered to the Prime Minister. Probably it was intended to have this translation translated into Chinese by the French Missionaries at *Pe-king*, in order to compare it with that which the merchants of Canton made

made after my English version, and which was annexed to the duplicate sent from Batavia, and forwarded by the *Tsong-tou*.

From all these facts an inference may be drawn of the fear entertained by the depositaries of the public authority in regard to the real contents of the letter, and at the same time this fear is a proof of their conviction that reasons of complaint exist, since they are so much in dread of a complaint being made.

We lived again very abstemiously this day; for little or nothing was to be got. Our provisions were brought so late, that we did not dine till the afternoon was far advanced. We found besides that our repast in the capital was full as bad as upon the road. Every moment we have fresh cause of astonishment, and new reasons to perceive how very erroneous were the opinions we had formed of the Chinese nation.

This morning at five o'clock we repaired in carts, and escorted by several Mandarins, to the palace, which I was surprised to find at only a few minutes walk from our hotel. We were desired to alight in the square in front of the west gate. As it was exceedingly cold, we were
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not kept waiting in the open air according to the usual etiquette, but were conducted to a small apartment, which had been previously warmed, and with the mean appearance of which we were much struck. At a quarter past six we were carried back to the square to wait for the arrival of the Emperor, to whom, while on his way, we were to present the address sent from Batavia by the Commissaries General of the Dutch Company. This part of the ceremonial was also a subject of surprize, because we expected to deliver the letter in one of the rooms of the palace.

At least twenty times were we made to change our place and situation, being constantly surrounded by an infinite number of spectators. In the midst of these were also the numerous Ambassadors of several nations bordering upon the Empire; that is to say, of *Corea*, of *Thibet*, and of the *Mogul* and *Manchoo* Tartars; who crowded round us with a curiosity as great as that of the Chinese. In the press was a considerable number of Mandarins, distinguished by their particular dresses and different *insignia*. I confess I was much struck, both with the concourse of curious spectators, and with the confusion that prevailed among them to such a degree, that any one
might

might have imagined himself in the midst of a savage nation; that had never entertained the least idea of civilization. It was then that I recollected the boasted tribunal of the *Lijou*, or of rites and usages, and that I asked myself, upon seeing no signs of order, but a real chaos, on what occasion it was that it exercised its punctilious and rigid influence?—A fine subject for reflection, if we had not been freezing, while gazing on the scene.

A man must have been witness to such an occurrence in order to form the least idea of it; but from my personal experience, I could never have believed that things could have been in such a state of disturbance at the court of the Chinese Monarch.

At length, after another half hour's expectation, the Emperor came from out of the west gate of the palace, seated in a yellow palanquin lined with silk, and carried by eight bearers only.

When his Majesty approached, we were ordered to kneel down, the Ambassador holding up with both hands the gilt box in which was the address for the Monarch. When he had advanced as far as us, the Emperor made his bearers stop,
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and the *Fok-liu-tayen*, or Second Minister, who was walking by the side of the palanquin, came and took the box from the hands of his Excellency, and carried it to the Emperor. On this we all performed the salute of honour, by bowing the head three times to the ground three times over.

The salute being finished, his Majesty addressed himself to the Ambassador, enquired after his health, and that of all the persons of his suite, asked the age of our Prince, that of the Ambassador, and, lastly, whether we did not suffer from the cold, probably because he was surpris'd at not seeing us in furred clothes. The Ambassador's answers being conveyed to him through the medium of the Interpreter, the bearers proceeded, and we made a single inclination of the head, after which we arose.

The Emperor was carried straight forward to the westward, into a garden belonging to his palace, where there is a very large pond, and whither we were conducted on foot, in the midst of the croud, and with such rapidity, that it was the next thing to running. Each of us was taken under the arm by a Mandarin, and dragg'd along in a manner which,
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in our country, would be considered as characteristic of the greatest incivility and rudeness, though here it could only be regarded as a testimony of zeal and attention.

When his Imperial Majesty came to the edge of the pond, he got out of his chair or palanquin, and seated himself in an armed chair placed upon a sled. This sled, trimmed with a yellow stuff, and loaded with ornaments, particularly with gilt dragons on its sides, passed over the ice to the other side of the pond, whence his Majesty and his two Ministers repaired into a saloon to breakfast, and expedite certain affairs of state.

We also were taken to an apartment, where his Majesty had ordered breakfast to be prepared for us. It was so wretched a place, that if a similar one had been proposed to us during our journey, we should scarcely have deigned to accept it. We were then desired to sit down upon cushions on the floor, by the side of little tables, like the Chinese; but this being evidently inconvenient to us from want of habit, we were conducted to a pavilion of handsome appearance, situated in a walled garden. There we were put into a little room, hardly better
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than that we had left; but at any rate it contained benches and old tables, on which we set our breakfast.

The paper panes in the windows instead of glass intercepting the light, candles were brought in. The candlesticks were clumsy wooden ones, and the rest of the furniture was such as exactly to remind us of a guard-house in our own country.

On looking around us, we were struck with the greatest astonishment, of which we only got the better to reflect, that being received in such apartments in the Imperial palace, we had had little reason to complain of the bad lodgings to which we had sometimes been taken on the road. We concluded also, upon making the same comparison, that the hotel in which we were lodged at *Pe-king* was a magnificent place of abode. This picture will perhaps accord ill with the brilliant accounts that the Missionaries have sent to Europe of this capital, and of the palace of the Emperor; but I paint what I see, and what (I repeat it again) I so little expected to see, that nothing but by own eyes could have convinced me of its reality.

After

After breakfast, during which his Majesty twice sent us delicacies from his own table, a proof of our being very high in his good graces, we were carried back again over the ice, on which we found a great number of people skating. Their skates only differ from those of Europe in this, that instead of terminating before in a curve, they have at their extremity a piece of iron standing up at a right angle.

As the Chinese had heard that our gentlemen knew how to skate, several Mandarins of consequence insisted upon one of our servants going to fetch their skates. When they were brought, Messrs. Van Braam and Dozy got upon the ice, and gave the Mandarins, and afterwards the Emperor himself, a specimen of the European mode of skating. They were much admired, and attracted a great concourse of spectators.

After we had remained half an hour upon the ice, his Majesty came and seated himself upon the sled, which again crossed the pond. I perceived that he gave orders for our being placed near him, that we might have a better view of the performances of the skaters. At the same instant a whole troop of these came from a con-

siderable distance, running directly towards the Emperor; and, as if they had not the art of stopping themselves with their heels, as Europeans do when going at full speed, these Chinese, unable to check their rapidity, let themselves fall upon the ice as soon as they came close up to the sled, in order that they might not run over the Emperor. When the race of the first body of skaters was over, the sled was drawn to another place, where a gate made of bamboo had been erected, having a leathern ball suspended in the centre. Here again care was taken to place us close to the Emperor, that we might see every thing without obstacle, his Majesty turning his head round repeatedly to look at us.

Presently we saw soldiers approach, two by two, who skated over the ice with bows and arrows in their hands, and shot, one at the leathern ball, and the other at a kind of hat, of leather also, laid upon the ice at a little distance from the gate. They were followed by a company of little boys, armed likewise with bows and arrows, of which they made the same use as the soldiers. This exercise was performed with great order, and almost all were dexterous enough to hit the mark, though they moved with
great

great rapidity, and put themselves into all the elegant attitudes of European archers. The children shewed particular dexterity.

While this diversion was going on, I had an opportunity of observing that the pond we were standing on is a continuation of the water over which the noble bridge is built that we passed the day before yesterday. It was in sight of us, as well as several other distinct edifices, that are dependencies of the palace. In the midst of the pond is a small rocky island, with a handsome hexagonal pavilion upon it, whither the Emperor sometimes goes, during the summer, to amuse himself with fishing.

These singular exercises being at an end, his Majesty returned to the palace; through which we passed with the croud, in order to go and pay our respects to the *Voo-tchong-tang*, who, as President of the Tribunal of Administration, has, within the walls of the palace, and in the edifice set apart for the courts of justice, a variety of apartments, in which he gives audience, according to the rank of the persons introduced, while for his family and household he has a private hotel, situated without the precincts of the Imperial abode.

We were introduced to this Mandarin, by whom we were very kindly received. He enquired after the health of each of us, asked, if our laborious journey had not fatigued us, and if we did not feel cold without furred clothes.

After our answers had been conveyed to him through the medium of M. Agie, we took our leave, and were conducted back to our hotel, where we arrived at ten o'clock. The Imperial palace, which contains within its inner walls the buildings appropriated to the Six Tribunals of the Empire ; namely, 1. that of the *Ly-hou*, or Administration of the Regency of State ; 2. that of the *Hou-hou*, or Treasury ; 3. that of the *Li-hou*, or of Rites and Ceremonies ; 4. that of the *Ping-hou*, or Military Council ; 5. that of the *Hong-hou*, or of Justice ; and, lastly, that of the *Cong-hou*, or of General Police, is in itself a sort of little city, surrounded with a very lofty wall, through which there are a variety of gates.

In the interior of the palace there are hundreds of edifices, which make a magnificent appearance on the outside, and which are ornamented with pieces of sculpture. These buildings are beside richly gilt, and farther embellished by a
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red or green varnish of the Japan kind. The roofs are covered with yellow tiles.

Through the palace runs a winding canal, which is visible in some places, while in others it disappears under the buildings. The passages and the squares are all neatly paved with hewn stone. We perceived at a distance other edifices, in no respect inferior to these as to external beauty; but we also saw, in passing along several places, and between great masses of building, the most miserable hovels and heaps of dirt, which were ill concealed by walls. The apartments in which we were received by the first Minister were far from answering to the importance of so great a man. The rooms are so small, that there is not a common tradesman's house in Holland which does not contain handsomer and more spacious apartments; and they were so full of people of all ranks, that it was not without difficulty that we made our way through them. Nor was any great decorum preserved; masters and servants were standing promiscuously; and the latter, that they might the better gratify their curiosity by a sight of us, pushed aside the Mandarins without ceremony, and placed themselves before them. Every thing we saw appeared to us inconceivable, and would no doubt

have seemed so to any one who could have been witness of this assemblage.

The gate of the palace through which we entered is itself a large building with three passages, the middle one being the widest and most lofty. Each passage has a wooden door strengthened by plates of iron, with yellow brass knobs upon them, placed at about fourteen inches from one another, and disposed in the same order as the squares of a chess-board. These doors, and in general those of all the Imperial buildings, are painted red, and in all of them the middle passage is reserved for the Emperor alone, while those on the sides are for the Mandarins and private individuals. The length of the passage under the gate-way is forty-two of my paces, and is very handsomely arched over head. Upon the rampart over the gate is a building in the form of an oblong square, two stories high, and resembling in its construction, roof, and ornaments, those of the interior of the palace.

On coming out of this passage, we found ourselves in a vast square, paved and surrounded by buildings erected without the least regard to order or regularity. Each of these buildings, some of which are dependencies of the chief tribunals,

tribunals, is surrounded with its own wall. Two only on the left hand of the entrance have their *façades* and windows looking immediately into the square. The walls enclosing these different buildings form right lines in the interior of the palace, each running in the direction of one of the four cardinal points of the compass.

Here I must beg leave to add, in regard to the exercise of the skates, of which we were this day spectators, that it takes place annually, in presence of the Emperor.

It appears also that it is the only day on which skates are used; for neither before nor after did I ever see a single skater in China, although I have often seen flocks at the different times I have been upon the ice.

This afternoon the two pieces of mechanism intended for the Emperor were brought to us, that we might see if nothing about them was deranged. We found the upper part very much damaged, which did not astonish us, since once on the road, and in the presence of our Gentlemen, the *Coulis* let them fall upon the frozen ground. As no Mandarin's servant has taken the least care of them,

we have reason to fear lest all the rest should be in the same state.

Although we were liable to no reproach in this respect, the whole having been put into the hands of the Mandarins at Canton in the best order possible, and packed up in their presence, it was not the less mortifying that such distinguished presents, composed of the most finished pieces of workmanship (as their description in the supplement and the drawings will shew), should be no longer in a presentable state. It is true our mechanist declared that he was able to repair them; but we were in doubt if our stay would be sufficiently long for him to have time to finish the job. We therefore resolved to be guided by circumstances.

13th. At four o'clock in the morning the *Lingua* came to wake the Ambassador and me, in order that we might repair to the palace, the Emperor having given orders that we should be conducted to the houses of the Second Minister and the other grandees of the palace. We got ready accordingly, and set off for court at half past six. We were taken into a private room, to wait till the *Fok-liu-tayen*, or Second Minister, should make his appearance in the audience chamber. An
hour

hour and an half after we were introduced. We saluted him with a genuflexion; as we had done yesterday at the Prime Minister's. He received us in a gracious manner, although there was something haughty in his demeanour. Like the Emperor and the *Voo-tchong-tang*, he spoke to us of our health, of the journey, and of our sufferings from the cold. M. Agie conveyed to him our answers, after which we took our leave.

Thence we went to the house of the *Y-tay-en*, whom we found exceedingly affable, and whose hair indicated a very advanced time of life. He had formerly been *Hou-pou* at Canton. We were next to have been conducted to a brother of the Emperor, but as some engagement prevented his receiving us, he sent us a message expressive of his regret, after which we were conducted back to our lodgings.

These visits carried us through a great part of the palace, and gave us an opportunity of remarking how little the interior of the buildings corresponds with the outside. The little apartment in which we first waited was so plain, and so destitute of ornament, that we could hardly persuade ourselves that we were in the Imperial palace. In going through some narrow passages,
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we observed edifices in bad condition, and much more calculated to indicate the abode of poverty than that of a great monarch. There was no end to my astonishment.

We were treated every where, and upon all occasions, with politeness and attention. His Majesty even sent two Mandarins this morning to enquire in his name after the health of the Ambassador and that of all the persons of the Embassy. I heard every moment that the old Monarch was very well satisfied with us, as well as the Prime Minister, and that as to myself in particular, I had the good fortune to exhibit a physiognomy and a demeanour which captivated their good will. I was told besides, that we stood very much above the English in the opinion of the Sovereign and the *Voo-tchong-tang*; and all these particulars were accompanied with further compliments. I trust the reader will excuse those which I have just related, and which my veracity forbade me to sacrifice to a false sense of shame, because I am in reality no more here than the Historian of the Embassy.

The persons from whom we received these pleasing reports gave us reason to hope for still more distinguished marks of favour, and
assured

assured us that we should have an opportunity of seeing things that no foreigner as yet had ever beheld. Our desire to enlighten Europe by our observations on what is most remarkable in China made this information highly agreeable.

While we were out upon our visits this morning I met at the Imperial palace one of the Portuguese Missionaries, an old man with a long grey beard. I had hardly time to salute him, because in haste to go to the audience of the Minister; and I was very sorry for it. Our meeting was so unexpected, that I did not even think of asking where I could see him again, a thing which I am fearful the Chinese will endeavour to prevent.

A little after twelve o'clock one of the principal eunuchs of the court, of the rank of a great Mandarin, came to enquire in the name of the Prime Minister after the health of the Ambassadör and me. As our dinner was just putting on the table, he expressed a desire to see us eat, and was invited by us to satisfy his curiosity. Nothing escaped his observation. Having seen his Excellency drink half a small glass of brandy to supply the want of our wine, which was not yet arrived, he also tasted it, and asked for one of

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our plates of English manufacture, a little brandy, and a couple of biscuits, which he wished to present to the *Voo-tchong-tang*. He returned us his thanks, and, at the expence of the English, bestowed great praise upon our politeness, and upon the order observable in every thing about us. He then took leave, exceedingly well pleased with the attentions we had shewn him.

The Mandarins who came with us were still extremely disconcerted about the two pieces of Mechanism. It was evident that they were desirous of colouring over their negligence, and of throwing the blame upon the mechanist, and bad packing up; and that they were particularly anxious lest the truth should come to the Emperor's ears. Three Chinese watch-makers in the service of the court came to see if it would be possible to mend them in a few days, under the direction of our mechanist; but the latter declared that as he could not make them understand him, it was impossible for them to be employed. He said that it would be necessary to remove the presents into one of the apartments of the palace, and to procure him his tools, which were not yet arrived at *Pe-king*; and that he should then be able to repair every thing, with the assistance of two or three Missionaries, who had

had last year helped him to put to rights the English planetarium in the palace of *Yuen-ming-yuen*. It was easy to perceive that this proposition was by no means pleasing to our conductors; for they asked if we had not brought other pieces of mechanism that might supply the place of these. We answered that we had not, and added, that since our mechanist was able to restore them to their primitive state, they would be presented to the Emperor as the most valuable things we had to offer him. They then went away, much discontented with the bad success of their attempt.

This afternoon we had the pleasure of seeing the rest of our suite arrive; namely, fourteen soldiers and servants, all of whom had suffered much from fatigue and the severity of the season. A Malay belonging to the Ambassador was in a burning fever and delirious.

15th. A Mandarin coming again to enquire into the state of the pieces of mechanism; M. Petit Pierre found means, by the assistance of one of our Chinese servants, to make him understand the real cause of their derangement; and the negligence shewn by our conductors in that respect. He told him also, that with his tools,
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and the help of the Missionaries, he could manage to make them as perfect as ever. The Mandarin gave him to understand that he comprehended the whole business, and that he was going to make a report of it to the Prime Minister.

In the mean time the day appointed for the delivery of the presents approached. The mirrors arrived this day, without having met with the smallest accident; but one of the English lanterns was broken, which, however, I replaced by one of my own. Two necklaces of pearl and amber, that were put into the trunk which contained my linen, were not yet arrived. As I refused to entrust the key of it to any one, a courier was dispatched to accelerate its conveyance. In the afternoon the Emperor sent us a large yellow bag, containing Tartarian grapes of an agreeable taste, but small, and without stones. The Mandarins told me that these grapes being good for complaints of the lungs, and his Majesty having remarked that I had so bad a cold as to be hardly able to articulate, this present was a proof of his attention and kindness. I performed the salute of honour as a mark of my gratitude, making an apology for the Ambassador, who was confined to his bed by a severe head-ach.

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I should not forget to say, that a custom strictly observed among the Chinese requires every one who receives a present from his Imperial Majesty to place it upon a table, and to perform the ceremony of adoration before it, kneeling and bowing the head thrice to the ground three different times over, while leaning upon the hands.

There was something however very strange in the treatment we met with.—On one hand we received a great deal of attention, while on the other we were kept absolutely confined to our hotel, and watched as if we had been so many prisoners. We could not even find means to convey a note to the Missionaries. Such of our servants even as were Chinese dared not go into the streets; and the severest punishment was denounced against any one who should attempt to convey us any information. Of this we doubt our conductors were the cause. They were certainly afraid, lest in our conversations with the Missionaries we should expose the conduct of the Mandarins of Canton. All this rendered our situation disagreeable and tiresome, and inspired us with the strongest desire to return.

16th. The

16th. The young Malay, one of the Ambassador's servants, whose arrival in bad health I mentioned on the 14th, died this morning. In the forenoon, the Mandarin who was our third conductor, and who remained behind to superintend the baggage, arrived at *Pe-king*. He brought with him nothing but three trunks belonging to the Ambassador and me, and three cases of wine. We had it then in our power, after a month's privation, to drink a glass of that liquor at our meals. We received him very coolly, and every one of us asked him for some article or other. He answered that the whole would arrive in three or four days, but that he had been obliged to leave it to the care of two inferior Mandarins. His Excellency, through the medium of M. Agie, reproached him in terms so harsh, that he retired without making an answer; and without taking leave. Perhaps he was less blameable than we imagined, since it is so difficult to manage the *Coulis*, as we ourselves had but too well experienced: but it is the nature of man to complain without always considering whether those to whom he addresses his reproaches deserve them; and woe to the innocent who is exposed to this kind of vengeance. It is nevertheless true, that it is exceedingly unpleasant for our gentlemen to be reduced,

from the want of their trunks, to the necessity of borrowing linen.

At the same time, the Mandarin to whom the care of our hotel was entrusted supplied our table as scantily as possible, and with an everlasting monotony. This conduct was certainly unknown to the Prime Minister. Inferior Mandarins had no doubt made it a means of filling their purse, as the domestics of our conductors did upon our journey, according at least to the report of our Chinese servants. But where is there a place in the universe inaccessible to corruption? Would it not be the same thing in Europe? And would not every one try to avail himself of such an opportunity if it should come in his way? Let us not then judge too severely of the Chinese, who perhaps would also tell us in reply, that the signal proofs of address which they gave in this instance were no injury to our pockets, since the whole of our expences were defrayed by the Emperor.

This evening the body of the unfortunate Malay was taken away and buried without the city.

17th. This morning a present of pastry was brought to the Ambassador and his company, in the name of the Emperor.

Shortly after, a Mandarin came to ask for the valuable articles which made part of the presents to the Emperor, and which had been entrusted to my care. I refused to part with them, saying that I had orders from his Excellency to deliver them to the *Voo-tchong-tang* in person, as had been the practice in former Embassies. The Mandarin, although he expressed much discontent, found it impossible to gain his point.

This afternoon the *Lingua* came to inform me, that the Ambassador and I were on the next day to deliver the presents for the Emperor to the Prime Minister. I communicated this message to his Excellency; but he was so much indisposed with fever, that it was impossible for him to rise from his bed. I sent word of this to the Mandarin by the Interpreter, adding that I should go to court alone.

This day we received some more of our baggage, and some cases of liquors, but in a most deplorable state. Out of forty-eight bottles contained

tained in one of my cases, twenty-seven were broken, and in the others the breakage was in the same proportion.

It would be unjust to impute this loss to the negligence of our conductors. In the first place, the intense cold might have acted upon the spirituous liquors, and by freezing them might have made them burst the bottles. Besides, those cursed *Coulis* frequently let the cases fall violently upon the ground hardened by the frost, on purpose that the bottles might break and the liquor run out, which rendered their burden so much the lighter. It would have been impossible for our conductors to attend to every *Couli*, since they were sometimes spread over a space of more than two leagues. Besides, I have repeatedly said that no Mandarin is able to controul that class of men, the very refuse of the Chinese nation. There is then no remedy but patience. The only well-founded reproach we have to make our conductors is their having continually amused us with vain promises, which is not less the fashion at court.

As it is not indeed impossible, if we knew all, that valid excuses might be found for every thing that appeared blameable in our conduc-

tors, I shall make it a point to say no more upon the subject.

18th. I repaired alone to the Imperial palace before six o'clock in the morning, carrying with me the most valuable presents. I was there ushered into a miserable apartment, a comparison with which would disgrace a Dutch guard-house, though in it I found several Mandarins, who wore in their caps the eminent distinction of the peacock's feather. At the end of an hour and an half, two principal Mandarins came to ask me for the presents, in order to carry them to the inner apartments. I delivered them accordingly, still remaining in the midst of a numerous company. Tea and pastry were presented to me.

At nine o'clock I was conducted to the Prime Minister, to whom, after having made my obeisance on my knees, I offered an apology for the Ambassador, expressive of his regret at his being prevented from appearing by want of health. He was very polite, and asked me if we had a good physician in our suite. To this I answered, that if the Ambassador should not find himself better in the evening, I should take the liberty of applying for one of the physicians of his Highness.

ness. Perceiving by my voice that I had a cold, he was pleased to attribute it to my being too thinly clad. I observed that my cold had been occasioned by the journey; and upon his enquiry if I took no remedy for it, I told him that I hoped I should be able to do without. After a few more words, he dismissed me in a very friendly manner. He was sitting upon his bed, on account of having received a hurt on one of his legs. The apartment in which he received me was so small, that there was hardly room for six persons to stand round his bed.

As I was retiring, I found myself taken by the arm and led into a little room adjoining to that of the Prime Minister. It was the Missionary whom I had met with in the palace, and who had made his way through a croud of Mandarins to accost me. Presenting to him my hand, which he eagerly grasped, I told him in Portuguese, that we were exceedingly desirous of seeing the Missionaries at our hotel. He answered me, *We shall shortly meet again.* I had scarcely time to give him a note written by M. de Guignes, which I had purposely put in my pocket, when I was pulled violently away, as if on purpose to break off our conversation, and led out of the room. A moment after I saw my note in the

hands of one of the first Mandarins, who attended me to the outside of the palace walls with great politeness.

On returning to our hotel I gave his Excellency an account of all that had passed, and told him, on the part of the Mandarins, that we were expected at the palace on the two following days at a very early hour, in order to pay our respects to the Emperor. I did not, however, think proper to advise him to go out; which, indeed, he was too ill to attempt; for it was not only necessary that he should keep his bed that evening, but it would have been highly dangerous for him to expose himself to the sharp air of the morning, the cold being then very severe. This morning Fahrenheit's thermometer had fallen as low as sixteen degrees. I consequently sent word that I should go to court alone.

Shortly after my return from the palace our interpreter begged M. de Guignes to go thither, as one of the first Mandarins was waiting to speak with him.

He went accordingly, and returning an hour after told the Ambassador that the Mandarin had asked him the contents of a note which he had

shewn to him, as also by whom it was written; that he had made answer that it was his writing, and that the purport of it was to inform the Missionaries that he was the bearer of some letters for them; and that he particularly desired to see one of them of the name of Roux, whose agent he was at Canton, because he had some important matters to communicate to him relative to his Mission; that not a word was said of the affairs of the Company at Canton; and that if we were desirous of seeing those gentlemen, it was merely because we were personally acquainted with some of them, and should feel great pleasure in seeing them at our hotel. M. de Guignes added, that the Mandarin had appeared very well satisfied with his sincerity, and had promised to procure him an interview with M. Roux.

We may then hope to be permitted to converse with the Missionaries, from which, no doubt, reciprocal satisfaction will be derived.

I had hardly finished the preceding phrase in my Journal, when a very unexpected letter was secretly brought me from my friend Grammont, who testified an earnest desire to give me some important information. I sent my answer by the

bearer of his letter. This gives us hopes of being able to correspond even if we should not see one another. My friend, however, gives me reason to expect that we shall meet ere long, which makes us all exceedingly happy.

In the afternoon two of our first conductors from Canton came to enquire after his Excellency's health, and to inform us at the same time that his Majesty received our presents very graciously, and with every mark of satisfaction. They told us, also, that henceforward their functions relative to our Embassy ceased, other Mandarins being charged to attend us during the rest of our stay at *Pe-king*.

The Emperor's presents being delivered, I proposed to the Ambassador to make out a list of those intended for the three principal ministers, the *Aa-tchong-tang*, the *Voo-tchong-tang*, and the *Fok-hio-tayen*, in order that they might be sent to those Mandarins. To this he consented. I therefore had the list translated into Chinese by the *Lingua*, and then gave it to a Mandarin to deliver to the above three Ministers of State.

In the afternoon the *Naa-san-tayen*, a Mandarin of the pale blue transparent ball, and peacock's feather,

feather, charged at present with the care of every thing that concerns us, came to see his Excellency in his bed, and to enquire after his health. He afterwards walked into my room to visit me, and to tell me to go the next morning to court.

This Mandarin is the very same in whose hands I this morning saw the note I had given to the Missionary, and also the same who interrogated M. de Guignes concerning its tenor. His address is pleasing, and his countenance very prepossessing. After having fulfilled his mission he took leave, and I attended him as far as the street-door.

19th. This morning at half past four I set off for the Imperial palace. I was conducted along the ramparts from the western gate to the southward, and then to the eastward, till we came to another great gate with three passages, by which we entered. I afterwards found myself in the midst of a great open place, forming a long square, and situated south of the palace. To the eastward of this square is a temple in which the boards or tablets (*chap*) of the deceased Emperors are laid upon altars. This square, as well as I could distinguish by the feeble light of the stars,
has

has on three of its sides buildings of little elevation, along which runs a covered gallery supported by pillars, except in the middle of the south part, where there is a lofty building of two stories high.

I was conducted into three different little apartments on the western side, to wait there for the arrival of the monarch. They seemed better calculated to hold utensils than to be the habitations of human beings.

At half past five I was led back to the square, the Emperor's coming being immediately expected. I then observed that the south wall of the palace advances at the extremities, and forms two regular wings, which I estimate at a hundred and fifty yards at least in length, leaving an interval in the middle of about a hundred and twenty paces. It is in the midst of this empty space that stands a gate or entrance, having, like the others, three passages closed by doors plated with iron, in the way already described, that form being general throughout all the Imperial edifices.

The middle passage of this gateway is more lofty and of greater width than two lateral ones,
and

and is full sixty of my paces in length. Over the gate, as well as over each of the wings, are buildings two stories high, constructed and ornamented like those I mentioned when describing the west gate. There is, besides, on each side of the middle edifice, a pavilion, the roof of which ends in a point.

In this part every thing is proportioned according to the laws of the most rigid symmetry, and the whole has an air of uncommon grandeur. I calculate the height of the wall of the palace at about forty-seven feet. It is all of hewn stone, and of considerable thickness. The outside, like all the walls that inclose edifices belonging to the Emperor, is coated with plaister, and painted of a pale red. This, with the rich gilding and brilliant colours of the building, composes a very magnificent whole.

At the angle of the palace wall, to the westward, stands a noble square pavilion, two stories high, coated, gilt, and ornamented, like the other buildings, with a roof, the top of which, embellished by a gilt point, attracts and pleases the eye.

This

This southern part of the palace must have existed in its present state at the time of the Embassy of the Dutch East India Company, a hundred and forty years ago, since a very exact representation of it is to be found in Nieuhof* ; but, at the same time, that engraving is the only one in the whole work that deserves the praise of accuracy.

At six o'clock the Emperor came out of the palace in his usual palanquin, and was carried to the temple of his ancestors, where he was detained nearly an hour by the performance of his religious duties. I knelt down while he was passing, but without performing the ceremony of adoration.

Before his Majesty came back a messenger was sent for my nephew Van-Braam, that I might not appear alone. His Imperial Majesty, on his way back, stopped his chair abreast of us, and, addressing himself to me, did me the honour to

* This narrative of the journey of the Dutch Embassy in 1655 and 1656, written by John Nieuhof, *Maitre d'Hotel* to the Ambassador, whose travels in other parts of the world have also been published, has been printed in several languages, and in different shapes. It is also to be found in Thevenot's *Collection*, and in the Abbé Prévost's *Histoire Generale des Voyages*, tom. v. page 229. of the quarto edition. (*Fr. Ed.*)

enquire after the Ambassador. My answer having been conveyed to him, he proceeded towards the palace. I then performed the customary salute, by bowing my head three times to the ground.

We were in expectation of returning to the hotel, when the *Naa-san-tayen* came to request us to go with him to the palace. We followed him, and entered by the south gate. Immediately behind it is a large square, south of which stands a noble edifice of two stories, and of vast size, with a flight of steps leading up to it. The *façade* of this building, extending east and west, corresponds exactly with the south gate.

We were afterwards carried westward through a gate, standing north and south, and having three passages. In the two lateral ones are easy flights of steps to facilitate the ascent and descent. Having passed this gate we found ourselves again in the great court behind the western gate, of which I have already spoken on the 12th of this month. We were then conducted northwards between two great edifices, passing in our way over a bridge laid across a serpentine canal. This canal runs to the south-east under the buildings contiguous to the gates through which we had passed, and afterwards shews itself in the

court we came to immediately after passing the south gate. Thence it runs, still in a serpentine direction, to the western part of the palace. We came at last to the same little apartment where I was yesterday, and where we were left for half an hour, at the end of which time a Mandarin came to take us into the interior of the palace.

We were conducted, in the first place, as far as the north corner of the area or esplanade that separates the six courts of justice from the abode of the Emperor, and there we were again led through a gate with three passages and flights of steps. Magnificent edifices are erected over these gates, which consequently serve a useful purpose, besides that of opening a communication from one place to another.

When we came to this spot I immediately judged, by the considerable number of eunuchs who were performing menial offices without, that we were in the very place of residence of the Emperor. We were then led through several very narrow passages, running east and north, and penetrating more and more into the interior of the palace. In one of these streets, for the name is not unsuitable, we were spoken to by the Emperor's seventeenth son, a young man of about thirty,

thirty, and of a pleasing countenance. He is one of the four princes who are still alive*.

After passing along several winding paths, kept very neat and paved with hewn stones perfectly smooth, while buildings on both sides presented nothing to the eye but dead walls, we came to an edifice in a little apartment of which was his Imperial Majesty. A play was performing upon a small but neat theatre, opposite the place where the Emperor was seated.

After the Mongul and Corean envoys (the former being eight in number and the latter thrée) had performed the salute of honour to the Emperor, I was likewise presented to the aged Monarch, and in my turn went through the ceremony of prostration. He was sitting on a sofa with his legs crossed under him, according to the Chinese custom. On his right hand was the *Voo-tchong-tang*, and on his left the *Fok-liotayen*, who, upon their knees and prostrate, were speaking to the Emperor, as well as I could

* This prince was declared Emperor on the 8th of February 1796, by his father the Emperor KIEN-LONG, who retired from the management of public affairs.

judge, about me. The Prime Minister then rose, and ordered the *Lingua* to tell me, on the part of his Majesty, that he had attained his eighty-fifth year, and that I was the first Dutchman that had ever had an opportunity of approaching so near to his person. I addressed my thanks to his Majesty for this signal favour in the most respectful manner, and repeated the salute of honour, after which we rose.

We were then placed a little upon the left, as were also the Envoys I have just mentioned, and were all told to sit down upon the ground on carpets that had been spread on purpose, in two ranks one behind the other. As I was not accustomed to that mode of sitting, it was to me a real penance.

At first I took the Mongul Envoys for a body of Missionaries, so much did their features resemble those of Europeans. I was even endeavouring to recognize my friend Grammont among them, when I was undeceived. Delicacies, pastry, sweetmeats, and fruit, with which the Emperor treated the Envoys, were then set before us upon little tables; and besides these he sent us from his own two small dishes, one of which was an excellent yellow jelly. We bowed our head to
thank

thank him for this favour, which when granted in public is considered as the highest honour that any one can receive in China.

After the Emperor had drunk a cup of juice or milk expressed from a kind of bean, a cup of the same beverage was brought us, poured out of his Majesty's own pot. All this was given us by the two principal Ministers, and by other persons of high rank, into whose hands it was delivered by eunuchs.

In the last place the Monarch distributed keep-fakes to the Envoys and other persons of distinction present, who scarcely amounted in all to twenty individuals. These keep-fakes principally consisted of little bags for tobacco, and little glass bottles to hold snuff.

My nephew and I received an equal portion. It consisted of four little embroidered purses, a bottle of snuff, two boxes of *Long-ching* tea, two bowls of blue porcelain, and a little porcelain dish with six China oranges. We made the salute of honour sitting.

While all this was passing, the comedy was going on without interruption, and some Chinese

were also performing feats of activity upon the theatre. Of one of these I cannot help speaking, on account of the extraordinary strength he possessed in his feet; and because of all the tumblers I saw in China, he was the only one deserving of mention. Even in Europe this man would have attracted the attention of the spectators.

Lying down on his back, he held up his legs vertically in the air. Upon the sole of his feet was next placed a ladder of six long steps, with a flat board at the bottom. A child of seven or eight years of age then climbed up the steps, and sitting upon the upper one, played a number of monkey-tricks, while the man kept turning the ladder first one way and then another. The child afterwards descended and ascended, twisting his body in such a way between the steps, that the different parts of it were alternately on the two opposite sides of the ladder. This diversion lasted at least a quarter of an hour.

When the exhibition of the ladder was over, two men brought an enormous earthen vessel, which must certainly have weighed more than a hundred and twenty-five pounds, and which they laid side-ways upon the feet of the strong man, who turned it round and round, and over
and

and over with astonishing rapidity. The child was then put into the vessel at the moment the mouth of it was turned from the Emperor, towards whom it was immediately brought round again by the man. The boy then made signs of respect, and climbing over the edge, got upon the top of the vessel, seated himself there, and assumed a variety of attitudes, letting himself hang down over the edge, by which he held with his hands, and enlivening the performance by a thousand playful tricks.

I do not know whether I have succeeded in giving the reader an idea of the boldness of these two feats of activity. As to myself, I do not remember ever to have seen any in Europe that astonished me so much.

After having been present at least three quarters of an hour his Majesty retired. We were desired to do the same, and re-conducted to the hotel, where we learnt that the Emperor had sent us another present, consisting of some pastry, and a piece of fresh pork.

This audience came upon us very unexpectedly, and appears to have been of a very private nature, since it took place in the Emperor's
Q 2 apartments,

apartments, and since so very small a number of persons was admitted. The utmost order prevailed, because there were no domestics of the inferior class; and it must be confessed that every thing that was served up was cooked very well, and in a very cleanly manner.

I have great reason to be pleased with the circumstances of this event, since it gave me an opportunity of seeing the internal parts of the palace, which perhaps were never before exposed to the eyes of a foreigner. This will be the motive of a little prolixity in the description I am about to give of the place wherein we were received.

The place in which his Majesty was sitting is rather a hall or landing place between two rooms than a room itself. The whole space is less than ten feet square by eight feet high. There were larger rooms on each side; and, in one of those to the right of the Emperor, I perceived through several small windows a great number of ladies who were looking at us with much curiosity; while an apartment to the left contained a number of European bells, and several magnificent pieces of furniture.

The

The theatre is about fifteen feet square, and is so near the other room that there is not five feet distance between it and the stair-case. The intermediate space in which we were sitting was hardly sufficient to contain us thirteen Envoys and our little tables. The great Mandarins were on the same side, but close to the theatre, crowded one upon another, and only coming forward when any thing was to be handed to the guests. I had the distinguished honour of being waited upon by the Prime Minister of the Chinese Empire, who is also not unfrequently called the SECOND EMPEROR.

Behind us was another building open in the centre, with two apartments on its sides, in which I perceived doors, leading no doubt to other apartments and other edifices.

By these details, and by those I gave when speaking of the apartments of the Prime Minister, it is easy to judge of the smallness of Chinese rooms; for they never make use of large halls but on occasion of festivals or public assemblies. It is generally the first story of great edifices that contains a hall or two that might better be called galleries. I am told that there are a hundred of these halls as well in the Imperial

palace, as at the Emperor's country house at *Yuen-ming-yuen*; intended for public entertainments.

This afternoon his Majesty sent us four barrels of shaddocks, pomegranates, and apples. This gave me an opportunity of once more performing the salute of honour.

The Ambassador, who is almost recovered, intends to go to court with me to-morrow to breakfast with the Emperor.

Towards evening the *Lingua* came to tell us that one of the Mandarins had commissioned him to inform us that his Majesty had the intention of sending us to his country house at *Yuen-ming-yuen*, situated at twenty five *li* from *Pe-king* (two leagues and a half); and of permitting us to amuse ourselves there for eight days. He requested us in consequence to make out against to-morrow a list of the persons we should wish to take with us, in order that every thing necessary might be provided; recommending to us at the same time to let our baggage be as little bulky as possible. I communicated the message to the Ambassador, who expressed much satisfaction

satisfaction at it, and told me how he wished this party of pleasure to be arranged.

To avoid much embarrassment we shall leave at *Pe-king* all the Ambassador's guard, and the greater part of the servants. I have made out a list of those who are to go, and have settled with the *Maître d'Hotel* what we shall take with us, so that every thing may be ready.

20th. At six o'clock this morning his Excellency and I repaired to the palace. On our arrival there we were first taken to a shabby little apartment; but afterwards to a more decent one, ten or twelve feet square, and the best of those of the same kind in which we had hitherto been received. At seven o'clock we were conducted towards the Imperial buildings by a gate like all those I have already described, standing between the two through which I passed yesterday, and upon the same line. It differs from them in no respect whatever. Within this gate we found a very spacious court, paved with hewn stones, and surrounded with buildings, the most considerable of which are situated to the south, and upon a rising ground, up the middle of which we advanced by a flight of forty-five steps.

The succession of these forty-five steps is interrupted first by a terrace ten feet wide; then comes another portion of the stair case, and then another terrace of the same dimensions as the former. These two landing places or terraces form galleries by means of a stone balustrade running along the whole front, the pilasters of which stand at about twelve feet distance from one another, and support figures of lions and other animals. The two intervals or terraces thus situated one above the other, and ornamented with a balustrade, make a very picturesque appearance.

Having ascended the steps we came to another level spot entirely paved with hewn stones, and having to the south another stair case with terraces exactly resembling those I have described. Upon the level ground are three edifices, two of which similar to each other, and standing east and west, are in the form of a long square, while the third in the middle is a square pavilion, the pointed roof of which ends in a golden ball.

This pavilion is consequently in a line with the two flights of steps between which it stands, and according to the Chinese taste has an external gallery supported on each side by six pillars. As
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all the doors were closed, it was impossible for me to form any judgment of the interior.

Looking thence I saw to the south, and at the bottom of the hill a garden full of trees and flowers, contiguous to the back part of the edifice, which I mentioned yesterday as standing north of the south gate. From the elevated spot on which we were standing, our view passing over that edifice as well as over almost all the others, extended to so great a distance that the mountains, situated to the north of *Pe-king*, were plainly discernible.

The two great buildings, standing between the two staircases, have on the ground floor large open saloons, in the front of which are galleries, with three different flights of stone steps leading up to them. The extremities of the projections that cover the galleries are supported by ten large pillars. In other respects these buildings are constructed, ornamented, gilt, and varnished like all those I have as yet had occasion to describe. The eastern hall, called *Pau-au-tien*, was prepared for the audience and breakfast of this morning.

In the middle of the hall is the Imperial throne, upon a plat-form six feet high. The approach to it is by three flights of steps; one in the middle, and the two others on the sides. The plat-form is covered with a carpet, and surrounded with a balustrade, which is ornamented with carved work, as well as the Emperor's arm-chair, and the rails that accompany each flight of steps. Behind the throne hung a yellow tapestry, and on the sides of the plat-form were several vases filled with natural flowers, to the sweet emanations of which two other vases of metal added the perfume of burning sandal wood and other Asiatic substances.

The two extremities of the gallery without the hall are paved entirely with stones of a finely polished surface. There were ranged the bulky instruments of music, such as that consisting of sixteen little bells, that composed of sixteen pieces of metal, the great drum, and several other instruments of a similar kind. They were all richly gilt, as well as the pedestals on which they stood.

The outer court, in which most of the guests were obliged to breakfast in the open air, was covered with thick carpets, on which were laid the cushions that each guest had taken care to make

make his servant bring, in order that he might sit down more conveniently on the ground fronting the pavilion.

Opposite the throne was pitched a great tent of yellow cloth, in which the side-board was arranged. Then in the court before the pavilion were placed four rows of little and low tables, covered with coarse linen, and so disposed that there was one between every two persons, except opposite his Excellency and me, where a separate table was placed for each of us.

This court was surrounded by persons of all ranks and all classes, not excepting stage-players and servants. The latter had the impudence to come and stand before the great Mandarins, in order to get a better view of us. There was indeed no less disorder than on the first day, when we were waiting for the Emperor near the west gate, previously to the exercise of the skaters. I consequently found a prodigious difference between this entertainment and that of yesterday, and was not a little surprised at it. We were desired to sit down upon cushions, which we did in imitation of the other guests. The reader must forgive me for repeating that this posture was to me a real punishment. All that we saw, every
thing

thing that we experienced was novel to us, and was marked with a character of singularity well calculated to attract, and rivet our attention.

It was past eight o'clock when his Majesty came with an escort of musicians, and took his seat upon the throne. Every body then rose, and, falling directly upon their knees, performed the salute of honour. The music continued while a table was served for the Emperor, who ate of several of the dishes set upon it. This was a signal for the guests, all whose tables were then uncovered; they approached and fell to with great avidity.

I observed that the arrangement of all the tables was the same, and that there were exactly fifty dishes upon each. This must appear very surprising, perhaps even incredible to my readers, after what I have said of the smallness of these tables. But I have to add that the viands, served up in very dirty copper basons, consisted first of three rows of four dishes each, and that over this first layer or *stratum* were three others, amounting also to twelve dishes each. Lastly, to make the four dozen fifty, there were at the top of all two great copper basons, in which boiled legs of mutton were contained, and of which the sight
alone

alone was enough to disgust a man with mutton for the rest of his days. The other dishes consisted of farinaceous aliments, dressed in different manners, or merely boiled in the way of a hasty pudding. There were also cakes much resembling the unleavened bread eaten by the Jews at their festival of the Paschal Lamb. Lastly there were sweatmeats and fruit. I took a little of the latter, feeling no temptation to taste the rest, which I kept still comparing with what I had eaten yesterday. This is a sort of Imperial repast which I imagine will appear new.

After a short time had elapsed, a cup of beverage was carried to the Monarch, and when he had drank, others were handed round to all the guests. Each of them on taking the cup performed the salute of honour sitting, by making a single inclination of the head.

I found this beverage very agreeable; it is a wine which the Chinese make themselves of grapes, and which has a great resemblance to that of Madeira, or the Cape of Good Hope.

Shortly after the Emperor ordered the three *Corean*, and the two Dutch Ambassadors to be called, in order that they might approach the throne.

We were conducted in succession up the steps on one of the sides; and performed the ceremony of adoration near the arm-chair. His Majesty then addressed himself to each of us, and presented us a glass of wine with his own hand. This gave occasion to a repetition of the salute of honour; and after the third prostration each of us rose and retired.

When my turn came to make the salute on account of the glass of wine, I prostrated myself with my head covered as his Excellency had done, but my hat, not fitting me well, fell off. The second Minister who was close to me picked it up, and put it on again. His Majesty laughed at the accident, and asked me if I did not understand Chinese. *Paw*, answered I, which in Chinese signifies I do not understand. At this his Majesty laughed still more heartily, and while I drank my cup of wine looked at me, and seemed to think it whimsical that I should make use of his language so *apropos* to tell him that I did not understand it. I afterwards finished my salute of honour; and when I rose to retire, the Emperor, having his eyes still turned towards me, kept looking at me with a countenance expressive of the greatest kindness. Thus did I receive a mark of the highest predilection, and such as it
is

is even said no Envoy ever obtained before. I confess that the remembrance of what I had suffered since the morning by remaining so long in the cold, was very much softened by this gracious reception.

At this moment some miserable theatrical pieces began, with which tumblers, dancers, and musicians mingled their performances, wretched alike to the eyes and ears of a European. Moorish, Cochinese, and Thibetian music, executed by three orchestras, the musicians of which wore dresses analogous to each species of music, did not afford us an amusement more suitable to our taste; and when his Majesty by retiring left us at liberty to return to our hotel, we felt a very high degree of satisfaction.

The Mandarin, who had been our first conductor, informed us that it would be necessary to go to court again to-morrow, in order to congratulate his Majesty on the renewal of the Chinese year.

Early in the afternoon six little tables with viands, similar to those of the morning, were sent us in the name of the Emperor. We performed the salute of honour, as a mark of our gratitude;

but if I must tell the truth, the only use we could make of them was to give them as a treat to our Chinese domestics.

Having had so near a view of the Emperor of China this morning, it seems natural that I should say something of his person and dress.

His external appearance exhibits all the marks of old age, particularly his eyes. They are watery, and so weak, that it is with difficulty he raises his eye-lids which hang down in folds, especially that of the left eye. He is in consequence obliged, whenever he wishes to look at any thing that is not very close to him, to raise his head, and even to throw it a little back. His cheeks are shrivelled and pendant. His beard, which is short, is very grey. These are the only particulars I can give of this Monarch's person, never having been very near to him but when he was sitting.

It is true, that on the 12th of this month, I saw his Majesty take a few steps, on getting out of the sled, to return to his palanquin; but as the two Ministers supported him under the arms, probably because the ground was slippery, it was impossible

impossible for me to form an exact idea of his stature.

His dress consists of clothes lined with fur, which appeared to me to be that of the sea-otter; and round his cap, which is sometimes ornamented with a large pearl, was a border of the same kind. In this season, as well as in all others, the Emperor's dress is very plain, although he is served and honoured like a god. He does not, indeed, enjoy the tenth part of the pleasure and amusements which are at the command of the meanest Prince in Europe. His recreations consist of tricks and buffooneries, with which it would be difficult to divert the common people of a European country at a fair; and such were the representations of this morning. But as he is unacquainted with more refined enjoyments, and unable to form an idea of them, he cannot be said to suffer any privation. It is not then surprising that the diversions of children should be an amusement to the Emperor in his old age.

In comparison with Europe, it may be said, that here the splendor of Majesty is immediately connected with marks of the most degrading ignorance. The Prince is elevated to the skies, while the man remains enveloped in the dark-

ness of the first ages of the world. It is impossible to conceive this astonishing contrast without seeing it; nor can he, who has been an eye-witness of it, always explain it, nor even depict its most striking features.

Every thing in China shews the complete ignorance of its inhabitants in regard to Europe; and they hear it spoken of with equal indifference. The Emperor, as well as all those whom the public opinion places immediately next to him, think that they hold the first rank among all the created beings of this immense universe, and that they are at the head of the first nation to be found throughout the vast extent of space. A kind of miracle must be operated, before the idea of sending a Chinese as an envoy to other nations can enter into a Chinese head. Hence it is easy to conceive the profound ignorance of the Emperor of China, and of the people he governs, as to every thing that concerns the rest of mankind.

It would be natural to suppose that the Missionaries must have diminished this ignorance, by giving them accounts of the different countries in which they were born. But a Chinese, and particularly a Chinese grandee, never feels the least desire of information on that head. How, indeed,

is it possible to wish to learn any thing, when we are convinced that our knowledge is already superior to that of the rest of the world? Besides, the Missionaries enjoy so little consideration among the Chinese, and inspire them with so little confidence, that they would counteract their own designs to no purpose, if they endeavoured to set the Europeans in any way above the natives. They find themselves, on the contrary, reduced to the necessity of extolling their present protectors above every thing: their adulation, indeed, even if silent, would pass for an acknowledgment of the superiority of the Chinese.

It may, perhaps, be supposed, that the sight of the master-pieces of art, which the Chinese receive annually from Europe, will open their eyes, and convince them that industry is there carried farther than among themselves, and that our genius surpasses theirs: but their vanity finds a remedy for this. All these wonders are included in the class of superfluities; and by placing them beneath their wants, they place them at the same time beneath their regard. If, for a moment, they fall into an involuntary fit of astonishment, they come out of it firmly resolved to do nothing to imitate that by which it was produced.

The Chinese having been long in the habit of confining themselves to what is necessary, and of avoiding, according to the counsel of their ancestors, every thing which comes in the shape of a novelty, it is not surprising that they should not wish to acquire the knowledge possessed by foreigners. And, indeed, I must confess, as far as the opposition of manners allows me to judge, that the Chinese live very happily in their way. And if that be the case, what have they more to desire? Why should they wish to discover things, which when discovered, they would, perhaps, be unable to obtain; and of which the privation would make them acquainted with misfortune? I will even venture here to ask a question, which seems dictated to me by my subject: are the people of the South Sea islands become more happy or more wretched, in consequence of their intercourse with Europeans for the last thirty or forty years? Alas! it is but too true, that we have given them a knowledge and desire of things which their country cannot produce.

No doubt, the same cause would produce the same effect in China. That nation lives in a manner so simple and retired, that it can do without those faciltious wants, which we should be miserable if we could not satisfy. They never

have any opportunities of assembling at balls, and parties of pleasure; nor does any repast bring together large private companies; all circumstances of that nature belonging to public festivals, to which men alone are admitted. The women are only acquainted with such things, by stealing a secret glance, while the skreen which gratifies their curiosity, hides them from that of the men. But in the ordinary course of life, every one exists in the bosom of his own family: the walls of his house are the boundary of his amusements, and that of female liberty.

How, indeed, in a nation which condemns a whole sex to seclusion, can the individuals do otherwise than live in an insulated way? How can an agreeable society be formed? How can gaiety and pleasure be brought into places which are not adorned by the presence of the fair, and where their looks do not animate the sex whose existence they were destined to charm? Yes, I must pay them the tribute of this truth, that they are the soul of all social enjoyments, and that every thing languishes without the sphere of their delightful influence. How pure is this homage, and how much force does the truth by which it is dictated acquire, when a man has

been several months in China deprived of the happiness they diffuse over life!

I will venture to say, that by means of their continual intercourse with Europeans, the Chinese of Canton are in general more civilized than the rest of the nation to whom that advantage is denied; and this effect is circumscribed even in Canton, where there are more persons well informed, industrious, and polite, than in all the rest of the Empire.

At *Pe-king*, on the contrary, the rudeness of the Tartars is still perceptible; although it would be natural to expect to meet with more urbanity there than in any other place in China. Perhaps, after all that has been published in Europe concerning that immense country; my judgment may appear partial; but I am determined to exhibit nothing in false colours, though I am not sure that the opinion of my fellow-travellers will not accuse me of sometimes using too delicate a pencil.

This evening I was visited by several Mandarins, who all assured me that my answer, and my demeanour, had much pleased the Emperor; that he had spoken of them to the Grandees of the Court; and that so much was said about it,
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that *Poton* is become the cant-word of the day. Every one congratulates me upon my standing so high in the good graces of the Emperor: Although this excessive honour can be of no service to me, I am far from being insensible to such public testimonies of the Emperor of China's good will towards me.

The Ambassador had requested the Mandarins, our conductors, to offer, before the new year, to the three principal Ministers the presents which are intended for them, and which I had been putting in order this afternoon, in order that they might be taken away. But the Mandarins having been to enquire when this presentation could take place, it appears that it is thought proper to defer it, since they came to tell me that we must wait till a few days after that epoch. I have consequently packed them all up again.

At half past two this morning we were ready to set off for court again. An hour afterwards, our conductor came to tell us that it would be wiser for us to wait at home, where it was warm, while he should go to the palace to enquire if the first day of the Chinese year required our attendance. His Excellency was not at all pleased

with this uncertainty, because he found it highly disagreeable to get out of a warm bed at so early an hour, and in such dreadful cold weather, and because his health rendered him more sensible to such disappointments. It is, however, possible that the Mandarins may not be to blame, since his Majesty sometimes does not intimate his wish to the last moment, as we have already had occasion to perceive. However this may be, we are going to celebrate the new year of the Chinese empire, by taking a little more rest.

Every thing was quiet in the capital the day of this anniversary; for the report of a few crackers between midnight and the break of day are not deserving of mention; while at Canton fireworks are exhibited for a fortnight almost without intermission. Perhaps this kind of silence is the effect of the impression made by the solar eclipse that happens to-day, that event being a subject of sadness and mourning to the whole Chinese nation, and particularly to the Emperor. He retires into the interior of his palace, from which every one is excluded, and there busies himself in superstitious practices, in favour of the sun or moon, in order that the light of the luminary eclipsed may be restored.

22d. This

22d. This day has also been very quiet: five are now elapsed since I wrote to my friend Grammont, whence it is natural to suppose that our door is narrowly watched. Not one of our Chinese, even of those who serve us as interpreters, are permitted to go out.

It is thought that we shall not be allowed to see any Missionary till we have had our audience of leave of the Emperor, because then we shall no longer be able to make any representation or remonstrances, supposing it to be our intention to do so.

Having this day made a present to one of the Mandarins, our conductors, for which he expressed his regret at having nothing to offer me, I talked to him on the above subject, and begged him to enquire if it would not be possible for us to see the Missionaries, which would be both to them and us a real satisfaction. I assured him that our conversation would be merely an intercourse of friendship, and the more so, as I had been acquainted with three of them at Canton. I observed to him besides, that if we should think any representations or complaints necessary, we should address them directly to the *Voo-ichong-tang*, and not to persons whom we well knew to have

no interest, and still less power, to support us in our proceedings. He understood my arguments perfectly, and promised me the information I desired.

23d. The new year has procured me the honour of a visit from several Mandarins, which is the only remarkable thing I have perceived.

Our first conductor from Canton having sent for the articles of which his bedding was composed, and which had remained at our hotel, the Chinese guards scrupulously examined each parcel as soon as it was without side the doors—a proof that a perfect confidence is not placed in us, and that we are, on the contrary, narrowly watched. How then can we hope to hear from the Missionaries? And how strange is such conduct on the part of a nation in regard to an Ambassador, to whom they affect to give public marks of consideration and esteem.

We this morning received all the rest of our baggage, but in a most deplorable state. Not a single article has escaped undamaged. Every thing that was fragile is reduced to fragments. The vessels containing provision, the cases filled with liquor, are broken. In a word, it is a spectacle

tacle of destruction very painful to us; but which it behoves us to contemplate without murmuring, since it is not in our power to remedy it.

About noon, the interpreter came to ask me how many persons were to go to *Yuen-ming-yuen*. I gave him a list to deliver to the Mandarins. This little excursion will certainly be an agreeable recreation to us, since so much has been said in praise of that magnificent summer palace, part of which was ornamented in the European manner, about forty years ago, after the designs, and under the direction of Father Benoît, a French Missionary.

25th. The two pieces of mechanism have been carried to a house in the neighbourhood of our hotel, in order to their being repaired. A fresh attempt was made to give our mechanist three Chinese watchmakers as assistants, but he rejected them again, because it was impossible for them and him to understand one another, and persisted in asking for the two Missionaries, as a mean of speedily terminating the business. Great obstacles were started in opposition to his request, and the permission of the Emperor was deemed previously necessary. As his Majesty is much occupied at this moment, I proposed my waiting
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upon the *Naa-san-tayen*, to whom I could give an account of what was passing, with explanations so well fitted to tranquillize him in regard to our communicating with the Missionaries, that I made no doubt of removing all fear. As I was obstinate in my resolution, I was told in answer that my design would be intimated to that officer; but I plainly saw that it was considered as a thing exceedingly unpleasant for the Mandarin who had been charged with the conveyance of the pieces of mechanism from Canton. Those, however, who had been our two first conductors, and who were present at this discussion, were themselves of opinion that it would be highly proper that I should speak to the *Naa-san-tayen*.

The first conductor recommended me to profit by this opportunity in order to prevail upon the *Naa-san-tayen* to request of the Prime Minister, in the Ambassador's name, that we might return by water rather than over land, and thus be spared the fatigue incident to so tedious a route.

The same Mandarin told me also, that it was already some time since the Emperor had dispatched orders to Canton to exempt the ship that brought his Excellency to China from the tonnage, custom-house, and sailing duties; a piece
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of information very agreeable to me, as by means of this indulgence the Embassy would cost the Dutch Company very little; and I considered it as so much the more fortunate, because being bound by the oath exacted from us at Canton by the Mandarins, to confine our Embassy to mere congratulations, it was out of our power to solicit any thing at *Pe-king*; thanks to that official intrigue. And who knows whether means would not have been invented to frustrate our intended journey to court, if, instead of subscribing to such a declaration, we had refused to comply with their demand?

Our second conductor, it is true, had mentioned to me the circumstance of the exemption of duties a few days ago; but I did not give entire credit to him, although I thought it natural that the same favour should be shewn to our ship as to the English Company's vessel the *Hindustan*, which was exempted from all duties last year in consequence of its having brought Lord Macartney's suite and the presents intended for the Emperor. My presumption indeed was not unreasonable, since we were told, over and over again, that we were held in much higher esteem than the English Embassy. It is also just that the Chinese Monarch should give some proofs of
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magnanimity, when he receives testimonies of the high consideration he inspires, and of European generosity. And this sacrifice ought to cost him the less, when the homage paid him from the extremities of the globe is witnessed by the envoys of neighbouring nations, who can testify that the renown of the Chinese Empire extends to the most distant people upon earth.

The Dutch Embassy will cost the Imperial treasury at least eighty thousand *taels* (six hundred thousand livres, or twenty-five thousand pounds), all the expences of our journey from Canton to *Pe-king* and back again, besides those of carriage, being defrayed by the government. But is that paying too dear for this tribute of respectful affection.

26th. About the hour of noon, the *Naa-san-tayen* came to our hotel and paid a visit to the Ambassador, who conversed with him on a variety of subjects. His Excellency begged him to thank the Prime Minister for the favour which he had inclined the Emperor to grant, of exempting from all duties the ship that brought him to China, and to ask, as a new mark of kindness, that we might return by water, in order to avoid the great fatigue we had experienced in our way
to

to *Pe-king*. The Mandarin promised to execute both these commissions.

The Ambassador added, that our mechanist would put to rights the interesting pieces of mechanism we had brought with us; but that he still required the assistance of one or two Missionaries, it not being possible for him to avail himself of the services of the Chinese, whose language he does not understand. The *Naa-san-tayen* made answer, that the Missionaries were employed at that moment; but that they should come and assist M. Petit Pierre in a few days.

The Ambassador, shewing this Mandarin a superb silver temple, entreated him to offer it, in his name, to the *Voo-tchong-tang*; as a testimony of his esteem. He consented to make the offer, but added that the Prime Minister would refuse the temple, as well as every other present, because it would ill become him to accept any thing from persons who had undertaken so long and fatiguing a journey in order to pay their respects to the Emperor. Neither would any other Mandarin consent to receive presents without an express permission from his Majesty.

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This conversation being finished, the Mandarin, after taking leave of his Excellency, came into my apartment to look at something or other, and I afterwards attended him as far as the street door.

Shortly after came one of our court conductors to acquaint the Ambassador and me that we are to repair to the palace to-morrow morning at three o'clock, in order to be present when his Majesty sets off for the temple to offer his annual tribute to the Almighty, in quality of Sovereign Sacrificer of the whole Empire. As his Majesty is to pass four and twenty hours at the temple, he added that it would be necessary to be also at the palace the day after to-morrow, when he is to return.

I also learned from him that we, as well as all the persons who are to accompany us, are to hold ourselves in readiness to set off for *Yuen-ming-yuen* about the 18th of the moon (the 30th of this month), his Majesty wishing to give us a reception peculiarly gracious, and to shew us every thing curious that the place contains.

I communicated all these things to the Ambassador.

27th. Although

27th. Although we were prepared at the hour appointed yesterday, it was nevertheless half past five when we set off for the palace. We were conducted to the south square where I was on the 19th of this month; and were desired to walk into one of the apartments situated under the lateral galleries, where we remained till seven o'clock, when we were taken back to the square.

The day-light at the time last-mentioned affording me a good view of it, I observed that the building opposite the south gate of the palace is neither more nor less than the great gate of the south external wall, which, according to the signification of its name *Uum-moen*, has five passages. The middle one is the loftiest and widest. The lateral ones next to it, although smaller than this, are however much larger than the two at the sides. The building that I took before for the gate of the temple of the Emperor's ancestor's, is nothing but a gate leading to a square or esplanade to the eastward, in which that temple is situated. I could now perceive the roof of it overlooking the edifices that stand on the west side, as well as the trees by which it is surrounded.

I also perceived that this eastern gate is exactly in front of that to the west by which we entered, and that they were similar and symmetrical buildings.

On the square south of the palace stand two bases or pedestals of marble supporting four short columns. On the capital of the eastern one is a machine which shews the age of the moon, while upon that to the west is a circular dial with two faces. It is inclined, and so contrived, that at sun-rise the hours are marked by the projection of the gnomon upon the under side; but when the sun has gained a greater elevation, the time of the day is indicated upon the upper surface.

This square or court yard, which is very long, is entirely paved; but with this peculiarity, that in the cross formed by the two lines which lead to the four gates looking to the four cardinal points of the compass, the pavement, composed of large hewn stones, is raised five inches above the rest of the square, upon a width of twenty-five feet.

At half past seven the Emperor arrived in his habit of Sovereign Sacrificer. He was seated in a very large and very lofty chair, made in the
shape

shape of a temple, and carried by two and thirty *Coulis*. This chair was followed by his usual palanquin. We performed no other ceremony than that of kneeling down at the moment that his Imperial Majesty was passing by.

The Monarch was preceded by a long train of servants on horseback, each of whom carried something of use to him, either for his person or the ceremony he was about to perform. In the first place was a yellow folding chair, and a low table of the same kind, both richly gilt; then two great vases of wrought gold; two boxes full of *betel*; four great dishes or deep basons, and two more boxes containing perfumes, the whole also of gold. Each of the bearers of these various things had a strap which passed round his neck, and which served him to hold them by.

In this ceremony the Emperor has some resemblance to the High Priest of the Jews, who entered once a year, dressed with the greatest magnificence, into the Holy of Holies, there to offer an expiatory sacrifice in the name of the whole Hebrew nation.

The procession took the road of the external south gate, but before his Majesty had reached it, we were taken away and re-conducted to our lodgings.

After passing through the western gate, on the outside of which is a large paved court, I remarked exactly in front of it a place walled round, with a gate of three passages, closed by folding doors painted red, and stuck full of large brass nails. In this inclosure is a building, which I presume to be dedicated to the philosopher *Kong-fou-tsu* (Confucius), because I perceived above the wall several roofs of temples surrounded with trees.

North of this inclosed space is a very wide canal, running east and west, and another still wider under the western walls of the palace, beginning at the west gate and running northward for at least a mile.

It was about eight o'clock when we returned to our hôtel. About half an hour afterwards a present was brought us from the Emperor for our breakfast, consisting of a dish of cold boiled meat, and a plate of balls of meal, boiled also. This present will appear still more incredible

dible if I enter into farther details. The meat consisted of a bit of the ribs, upon which there was hardly the thickness of half an inch of lean flesh; a small bone of the shoulder with scarcely any meat upon it at all; and four or five other bones belonging to the back or feet of a sheep, and appearing to have been already gnawed. All this disgusting collection was upon a dirty dish, and seemed rather fitting for the meal of a dog than the repast of a man. In Holland, the worst of beggars would receive a more cleanly pittance at an hospital; and yet it is a mark of honour shewn by an Emperor to an Ambassador! Perhaps it was even the leavings of the Monarch, and in that case, according to the opinion of the Chinese, it was the greatest favour that could be conferred, since we had it in our power to gnaw the bone that his Majesty had begun to clean. I should certainly have preferred partaking of any other dainty bit rather than this unfavoury fragment. From this trait the reader may form an idea of the civility of the people of China. The Emperor is no doubt ignorant of these disgusting proceedings; but at any rate the *maitres d'hotel* should take care that his presents appear in a more cleanly shape, especially when they are intended for foreigners.

On the other hand it appears that all this is the effect of custom, for they pay quite as little attention to cleanliness in the other details of the table. When there is any want of plates or dishes they do nothing but turn those that have been already used, in order to throw the remnants upon the first table that comes to hand, without troubling themselves about its being clean or dirty. Such is the politeness of the officers of a court where one of the most important tribunals is that of ceremonies.

Our Mechanist, Petit Plerre, began this day to repair the handsome pieces of mechanism that have been injured. That young man is really very skilful in every thing belonging to mechanics and watch making.

28th. His Excellency and I repaired to the palace at four o'clock in the morning, and staid there in the same apartment as yesterday till six, when we were conducted to the south square. The Emperor was not long before he made his appearance in his way back from the Temple of Heaven, which is situated at the southern extremity of the suburbs at ten *li* (a league's) distance from the palace. He was in his usual palanquin, carried by sixteen *Coulis*, and repaired
immediately

immediately to his apartments. We then retired, and at seven o'clock got back to our hotel.

It would be not a little irksome to European courtiers if the princes there adopted the custom of giving their audience and expediting affairs of state at the break of day. It is probable that their levees would not be so much crowded as at present, and that the same display of luxury would not be seen on the part of those who only go that they may be able to say they have appeared at court.

I am far myself from approving of the Chinese custom. In summer, indeed, it may not be found disagreeable to rise before the sun, and thus avoid the heat of his rays; but how hard is it in winter, and in the middle of the night, when the cold is severe and piercing, to leave a warm bed to go and encounter the inclemency of the air. It is, accordingly, with extreme repugnance that we submit to this necessity to which we are here condemned.

Neither upon this occasion, nor during any of the other ceremonies at which the Emperor was present, did I ever see a military guard. There is not even a guard-house at the gates of the

palace, which are entrusted to the sole care of a little Mandarin and a few other individuals appointed for that purpose. Any one would naturally expect to find a small army in the Imperial residence, but he will see nothing like it. I can affirm, that in all my walks through the city I never met with any thing military except a small guard-house, occupied by ten foldiers, under the command of an officer, who falls into the ranks himself, as serjeants do in Holland. At the gates of the city there are, perhaps, thirty or forty men, commanded by an officer of higher rank.

I was not a little surprized to see so few troops, after having been assured last year, by one of the persons of the English Embassy (Captain Mackintosh) that the effective army of the Chinese empire amounted to eighteen hundred thousand men. Perhaps it is requisite to go into Tartary to see them; for I sought in vain during my journey to discover a sufficient number to justify my adopting any such estimate.

In the cities of the first and second order we found as many as two hundred and fifty foldiers, and in those of the third order seldom more than half the number. This calculation is founded

upon the whole garrison turning out under arms in the cities we went through ; and in those that we only approached, all the military were in like manner drawn up while we passed, in order to add to the parade of our reception. Reasoning upon these *data*, drawn from circumstances in which it was more natural for the Chinese to seek to add to than diminish their display of force, and taking into the account all the cities of the three orders, all the forts, and all the military posts of the fifteen provinces of the Chinese empire; we should hardly suppose at the outside more than eight hundred thousand men.

Yesterday and to-day there were at least two hundred horsemen mounted who either preceded or followed the Emperor, but they were confusedly mixed with the rest of the procession. In the number was a score of archers, confounded also with the other individuals. The rest of the train consisted of Mandarins and of servants of the Emperor.

This court is then the only one even in Asia where the chief of the nation is not surrounded and protected by a formidable military guard. The confidential guards of the Emperor of China are eunuchs, who alone are charged with the protection

protection and police of the interior of the palace; of that place where he is really domesticated with his wives and children.

As to the horses, of which during these few days past we have seen a great number, I cannot forbear making them the subject of a few observations.

They are very numerous in the northern provinces of China, but they are in general small. A horse of tolerable size is an uncommon thing, and a truly handsome horse a rarity. This want of beauty in the horse is perhaps attributable to the little care the Chinese take of the species. They are very seldom either rubbed down, washed, or curry-combed. The saddle is put upon them in the dirty state they are in when they come out of the stables, which are also kept in very bad order. I have seen some of the principal Mandarins mount a horse without caring whether he were dressed or not. I have sometimes even remarked that the horse's tail was clotted with dirt, which adhered the more strongly owing to the frost, and which it was not thought worth while to remove. From these facts I am led to conclude that this valuable animal is here abandoned to himself, and that his
nourishment

nourishment is no more than sufficient to enable him to work. My reader will then, no doubt, be of opinion with me, that the fate of a horse in China is exceedingly hard.

Palanquins are very unfrequent in the capital; few make use of them except the principal Ministers of state and the great Mandarins, when they go out of *Pe-king*. The usual vehicle is a small cart, with only room for one person. It is drawn by a single horse, and the upper part is covered with blue or black stuff. The Royal Family itself, and the Grandees of the Empire, make use of similar carts, but they are then covered with cloth of an olive-green colour. The entrance is almost always in front, and the seat is nothing more than a cushion laid flat at the bottom of the carriage.

The private carts of the Mandarins have generally a little door at the side. These carriages are not calculated for any but Chinese. To Europeans they are exceedingly fatiguing, owing to the continual jumps they make over the pavement. I get into them as seldom as possible, chusing rather to walk when I am going no farther than the palace. Many Mandarins, particularly of the military class, make use of saddle
horses

horses instead of carts, whether going to court or elsewhere.

This morning his Majesty sent us a piece of raw pork for our table. At noon, or thereabout, the *Naa-san-tayen* waited upon his Excellency to thank him, in the name of the Prime Minister, for his offer of presents, and to intimate that he cannot accept them. His Excellency upon this observed to the Mandarin, that as these presents were sent by the Stadtholder and the Dutch Company, the refusal of them would be a sort of disgrace to us; and that we therefore requested him to repeat this observation to the *Voo-tchong-tang*, and to entreat him anew to receive the presents, more especially as at the time of the former Dutch Embassies they had not been refused by the then Prime Minister.

The *Naa-san-tayen* promised to execute our commission, though well assured that it would be of no avail, because, according to him, neither the *Voo-tchong-tang* nor any other Minister will consent to receive any thing whatever, but would rather offer us something as a testimony of their gratitude for the trouble we have taken, and the fatigue we have undergone during the Embassy,

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This Mandarin, after having taken leave of the Ambassador, had a short conversation with M. Petit Pierre concerning watches. He then went away attended by me again as far as the inner door.

In the afternoon we were informed that it would be necessary to go to-morrow morning, at four o'clock, to the palace, in order to breakfast in the Emperor's apartments. We had also notice to hold ourselves in readiness to set off the day after to-morrow at noon for *Yuen-ming-yuen*.

29th. We set off for the palace at four o'clock, being conveyed in little carts to a small distance beyond the noble stone bridge of which I made mention on the 10th and 11th of this month. There we took the south side of the street, opposite a great gate with three passages, closed by folding doors painted red, and ornamented with brass knobs. Having passed through this gate, we found ourselves in a large square planted with cedars and other trees, under which we walked for some time. We were then conducted to a little apartment near a pagoda, there to wait the Emperor's coming.

When

When it was broad day-light, but before the rising of the sun, we were desired to leave that apartment in order to go into a little garden, where the ground was entirely prepared for cultivation. There we waited near a large and magnificent building till the Monarch should appear.

I soon perceived that we were in the same place where we had seen the skaters perform their exercise on the 12th, but we were to-day to the westward of the frozen pond, instead of being to the south-east. We perceived a few skaters upon the ice.

Soon after sun-rise the Emperor came in his common chair, carried by eight *Coulis*. While he was passing we knelt down, but without saluting him. His Majesty, thus carried, entered the building, where he was received by the two principal Ministers, who had arrived on horse-back some time before.

We were then conducted towards a great flight of steps on the eastern side of the building, which led us towards a paved square, situated south of it, and entirely surrounded by a stone balustrade, having to the south three flights of
steps,

steps, which serve as a descent into the garden. The building, which is two stories high, is exactly similar to that which is situated in the interior of the palace, and which I described to the reader on the 20th of this month. The saloon, called *Tje-quon-cok*, the throne and the instruments of music, all retraced the idea of the former place. The preparations were also the same, as well as the manner of placing the guests and their little tables, except that to-day, instead of fifty dishes, they could only boast of four, namely, rice, broth, bones of meat, and balls of meal.

The Emperor having seated himself upon his throne, all the guests paid him the salute of honour, and afterwards sat down upon their cushions. After having ate something his Majesty sent a small dish from his table to us in particular. It contained cakes of meal, which I found excellent.

While we were eating, a vocal and instrumental concert was executed. Among the singers I remarked a very stout man, whose voice was the deepest bass I ever heard in my life, while the purity of the sound was astonishing. He reminded me that I had heard about thirty
years

years ago, at Amsterdam, three famous Jews, brothers, one of whom was very celebrated for his bass voice; but this Chinese surpassed him very much.

The repast being over, a cup of the milk of beans (*Catjang*) was brought to each guest, but it was so burnt that it was impossible to drink it. Soon after the *Corean* Ambassadors and we were desired to rise in order to approach the throne, opposite which we repeated the ceremonies performed on the 20th. We received from the hands of the Emperor a cup of Chinese *Samson*, after which his Excellency and I made the salute of honour with our hats on.

As soon as we had resumed our seats some buffoons entered, among whom was a little boy who performed upon the top of a bamboo the only tricks deserving of notice.

Shortly after his Majesty rose, and retired towards the palace. We were then desired to walk down the south steps into the garden, where a large yellow tent was pitched over three long tables. On these tables were wooden trays containing presents for all the Envoys who assisted at the entertainment. They
were

were distributed by the three first *Colaos* or Ministers of State, and delivered to each of us individually.

I saw to-day, for the first time, among those Ministers the *Aa-tchong-tang*, who is so far advanced in years that his beard is entirely white.

To the presents made us one was added for Prince the Stadtholder. It is a kind of Chinese sceptre made of a beautiful transparent green stone, resembling agate, and called by the Chinese *Fitz-ay*. This curiosity of admirable workmanship, and the highest polish, valued at two thousand dollars, was accompanied by fifty-five rolls of different kinds of silk, which were delivered to the Ambassador. He then received for himself twenty-five rolls of stuffs of various qualities; I had eight; there were forty more for the five gentlemen in the suite of the Embassy; and also seventy-two pieces of *Panche* (thin silk); and seventy-two pieces of *Nam-king* for the Mechanist and the seventeen soldiers and servants. A salute of honour expressed our thanks, and then the whole was delivered to the Mandarins, our conductors, in order that they might take care to convey it to our hotel.

The ceremony being over the *Voo-tchong-tang*
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caused it to be intimated to us, that his Majesty had ordered the *Naa-san-tayen* to take us to see some of the temples and edifices within the precincts of the palace. We desired the interpreter to express our grateful feelings for this favour of the Emperor, and set off under the guidance of the obliging Mandarin.

We went back over the bridge, which I have several times had occasion to mention, and to the northward of which we entered the palace by an immense gate.

We were conducted in the first place towards the temple of *Houing-on-tsu*, the great God of the *Lamas*; a sect of which the present Emperor is the declared protector. This temple consists of two edifices, one situated at the foot of a mount, the other on its summit. The first is built in the Chinese fashion, and the second according to the taste of the *Lamas*, that is to say, that its square basement is surmounted by a lofty circular dome, which is itself terminated by a long pyramid of excellent workmanship, and ending in a point, the extremity of which is covered by a crescent. The idol placed in the lower temple is of great height, gilt all over, and sitting upon a cushion. It is a colossal statue, the face expressing
ing

ing pleasure and gaiety, the characteristics of the idol of sensuality among the Chinese.

From the temple situated at the foot of the mount we proceeded through a door in the back part to a flight of a hundred and twenty steps of gentle ascent, which led us to the upper temple.

On all sides of the square basement which supports the dome of the latter is a large gallery, surrounded by a balustrade. From this point of sight the eye discovers without obstacle the vast extent of *Pe-king*, of which the prospect is really surprising, both on account of the immense space covered by the city, and of the view afforded by the whole of the palace, and by an infinite number of edifices and buildings of all kinds. Unfortunately it was a very early hour of the morning, and a thick fog arose, which prevented our seeing so well as we could have wished. Besides there was no proportion between the time required to examine every thing, and that which we were permitted to employ. It was from this elevated spot that I perceived for the first time, that the lodging assigned to us is within the outer walls of the palace.

We were desired to remark from the gallery of the upper temple the place where the last

Emperor of the Chinese dynasty hung himself. It is a little rising ground or mount, situated within the second inclosure of the palace, and called *King-tching*. On the summit of this rising ground, over the tomb of the unfortunate Monarch, an open hexagonal pavilion has been built.

The outside of the square basement of the pagoda of *Houin-on-tsu* is entirely coated with bricks, exhibiting figures in relief, in the midst of which is a deep niche containing the image of a *Jos* in *basso-relievo*. The bricks have a green edging, but the niche and image are yellow. The whole appears to be enamelled. Hence the reader may judge of the magnificent appearance made by the whole edifice.

Within the temple itself, which is formed by this square, stands upon an altar an idol monstrous in its form, but of small stature, since it is not more than five feet high. Its head is misshapen, and it has a number of arms and legs of bronze, cast altogether in a masterly manner. Before the altar are four stuffed tygers in a sitting posture; and along the walls are suspended bows, arrows, and other attributes of hunting. The door, the pillars, and the window-frames of the temple are of bronze likewise, and are embellished by art in a way highly deserving of praise.

Above

Above this square edifice stands, as I have already said, the dome, the bottom of which is of less extent than the square basement itself, and which, after a contraction or neck, rises, increasing in size, and terminates in a section of a sphere. On the centre of this dome stands a bronze spire or point, ornamented with a festoon, surmounted by a crescent, richly gilt.

After having admired all these details, and every thing else about this temple, and after having indulged our eyes with a view of such a variety of objects, we proceeded along a private road, made at the back of the hill, in which we now and then met with pieces of rock. It brought us to a third temple of Chinese construction, containing a female idol.

Upon quitting this last temple, we were desired to seat ourselves upon a sled, which carried us across the ice to another edifice. This is of a circular form, and built upon the margin of the water, with an open gallery, commanding a noble view when the eye is directed across the pond, which is here of considerable width; to several buildings erected on the opposite side.

I observed besides five pavilions situated on the pond, all magnificent structures. The middle;

and principal one, has a roof of three divisions or stories terminating in a point. The two pavilions next this centre one have double roofs, while the two others have single roofs of an acute form. Like that of the middle pavilion, all these roofs are richly ornamented, and covered with yellow varnished tiles. In short, the whole appearance of these five pavilions, exquisitely gilt, and embellished with red and green varnish, is truly extraordinary. It is there that the Emperor goes in the summer with his wives to fish, or to be present at some party of pleasure. The middle pavilion is destined solely for the Emperor, while the four others are inhabited by his wives, the courtiers, and the other persons in his Majesty's service. These pavilions are called *Uum-long-thang*.

On quitting the circular building, we returned to the sled, which conveyed us again across the lake. When we reached the other side we got out in order to visit another temple, called *Kik-lok-Isay-kay*. In the centre of it is an artificial rock, the top of which ascends to the roof, while its base covers the greater part of the inner surface of the temple. This rock is planted with trees, and is embellished with artificial flowers. A great number of *Jos* are placed in cavities left in different parts; while a winding and narrow path

path leads through the stones, by irregular steps, to the summit, where stands the principal idol representing a woman.

We ascended to the top of the rock; and found it much higher than we had imagined. Another path, leading also round the rock, but in a contrary direction, brought us down again. It must be confessed that this imitation exactly resembles nature; that every part of it discovers good taste; and that it is very well worth seeing.

Thence we were conducted to the temple *Man-fat-ten*, which is three stories high, each of them consisting of an immense room full of altars and idols. This temple is called the pagoda of *ten thousand idols*. Among the principal gilt statues standing upon altars there are three in each story, exceedingly large, and six smaller. The walls all round the temple are full of little niches; and in every niche, as well as between the steps, is the image of a *fo*, in bronze, about six inches high. This temple is then not a little extraordinary, and has a singular effect upon the eye.

We examined the three stories with a great deal of attention, and found the edifice to be of considerable elevation. The upper story is as handsome as the lower, except that the latter

can boast of two beautiful towers, about seventeen or eighteen inches high. They are made of dark-coloured wood, and are wrought with admirable delicacy and skill, the plates and ornaments of silver, with which they are enriched, making a very pleasing contrast with the colour of the wood. They are placed on the ground in two angles of the room.

In each room or story, opposite the altar, are vases of bronze of the most finished workmanship, with perfumes burning in them. There are other vases also intended for religious ceremonies, and highly deserving the attention of the curious.

We quitted this temple, in order to go to that called *Tay-say-tin*, where the principal image represents a woman sitting, and is more than thirty cobidos high*. Its head is composed of an assemblage of six faces, turned six different ways; while, from two well proportioned arms, proceed five hundred other arms on each side. Above the head, or rather the heads is a pyramid which appears to contain, at least, five hundred little heads.

Before and upon the sides of the altar are two

* About thirty-five French feet. (*Fr. Ed.*)

towers, standing on the ground, superior, in beauty, to those of the temple of ten thousand idols. Like them they are octagonal, and of nine stories, but are made of bronze, and, as we were assured, cast in a single piece. They are six feet and a half diameter at their base, and about fifteen feet high. The work is open, with chased ornaments, and a thousand curious details. They are so highly finished that the most skilful European artist might be proud of having executed them, supposing them even to consist of several pieces.

By the side of these towers are also two pretty large temples of bronze, ornamented inside and out with beautiful chased work, and with stones, suitable to sacred purposes*, which, as well as the temples themselves, would be well worthy the attention of the most skilful artist.

The consecrated vessels of bronze for the use of the temples are, in general, admirably wrought in *bas relief*, and with so much delicacy in the details, that to discover all their beauties, it is necessary to examine them closely, and with the most scrupulous attention. All the pagodas contain a great number of those vessels.

* *Des pierres analogues à l'usage des temples.*

We afterwards ascended, by a staircase, to the second story, which only forms a kind of gallery, because the colossal idol of which I have just spoken rises above it, and passes through the middle of the floor.

Upon the whole, these temples, both within and without, are decorated with a richness bordering upon profusion. The ornaments of sculpture are covered with such brilliant gilding, and such lively colours, that they are astonishingly splendid and magnificent. His Excellency accordingly confessed that he had never seen any thing either so beautiful, or so sumptuous, in the temples of Japan*.

All the avenues which lead to these edifices, and all the intervals between them, are laid out with exquisite taste. Sometimes we met with a rock; sometimes with places full of stones and pebbles; all these irregularities united, imitating those of nature, with an art which no other nation can equal.

In going from the second to the third temple,

* The Dutch Ambassador, *M. Titsing*, resided a long time in Japan, and even employed himself in acquiring information concerning that interesting country, the language of which he understands. (*Fr. Ed.*)

we passed under a great and beautiful triumphal arch, with three wide openings, situated near the edge of the pond at the entrance of the paved court of the temple *Tay-say-ten*. The supports or pedestals of this triumphal arch consist of large pieces of marble, sculptured in a masterly manner. The part which surmounts them, and which is of masonry, is entirely covered with varnish of different colours, seeming to indicate bricks of different tints, and harmonizing in the most agreeable manner. This triumphal arch is besides richly ornamented in parts with sculpture and gilding. It is covered with yellow varnished tiles.

We were abundantly convinced this morning, by the sight of so many curious things, that China has formerly produced men of great genius, supposing that there be none alive at the present day.

From the last pagoda, we were taken back upon the sled, over the pond, towards the eastern side, where we alighted. There the *Naa-san-tayen* took leave of us, and we returned on foot to our hotel, which was nearer to the gate through which we passed in our way to it, than to the south side of the palace. It was half past eleven when we returned after this entertaining excursion.

This favour of the Emperor is another manifest
proof

proof that our Embassy is agreeable to him, since no trace is to be found in the history of preceding ones of the like being ever granted to an Ambassador. The same may be said of our journey to-morrow to his summer palace, especially as the Monarch sets off himself to pass some time there.

We received notice to repair early to-morrow morning to the palace to see his Majesty set off, and to hold ourselves in readiness to follow him in the afternoon.

In passing through the street to return to our lodgings, we perceived that yellow sand was already strewing in it, and that it was preparing for the Emperor's passage.

Every day the streets are swept by a kind of imperial slaves kept for that purpose. There are no less than four thousand of them at *Pe-king*, where they are highly necessary to keep the city in a cleanly state.

30th. At five o'clock in the morning, we got into our little carts, which conveyed us beyond the bridge somewhat farther than yesterday. We alighted, and went into the shop of a dealer in furs, where we remained till day-break. We were then taken into the street, where, shortly

after, we saw his Imperial Majesty pass, borne by eight *Coulis*, in his usual sedan-chair. We knelt down while he passed, and perceived by a look he cast upon us, that we were not unobserved.

The Emperor's retinue was considerable. He was followed by a great number of palanquins and carts; but the principal part of his train consisted of men mounted on horses and mules. The latter, in the environs of *Pe-king*, are large and handsome animals, and appear to be in higher estimation than horses.

After the crowd was gone by, we got into our carriages again, in order to return to our hotel, whither the Mandarins came at an early hour to hasten our departure for the country.

Our baggage being already packed up it was sent off before us; and having dined at noon, we set off in little carts at one o'clock in the afternoon.

Driving to the northward for about four minutes, we turned to the westward at the corner of our street, and passed the bridge. After going a little way round we entered a long street, and, going a full trot still to the westward for a quarter of an hour, passed the outer gate of the palace called the gate of *Tsay-on*.

As soon as out of this gate, we turned again to the north, and drove down a street wide and straight like the last, and paved in the middle. At the end of fifteen minutes we turned a corner, entered another street, and, driving to the westward, found ourselves in fifteen minutes more at the gate of the city called the gate of *Tsay-cher*. Thus in fifty minutes were we conveyed from our hotel to the extremity of the city.

In the last street but one, we met six great elephants coming into *Pe-king*, having almost all long but slender teeth. They were a present sent to his Majesty by a great Mandarin residing on the western frontiers.

Beyond the gate of *Tsay-cher* the streets of the suburbs are not spacious, but on each hand are as handsome shops as in the interior of the city. The fronts of most of them are ornamented with exquisite carved-work, resplendent with gilding of the richest kind. On both sides of the way are also tents, in which haberdashers and other tradesmen expose all sorts of wares to the view of the public.

In these streets there were a great many women. We also met with a considerable number in little carts, some of whom were very agreeable in person.

I thought

I thought I perceived that many of these young ladies were upon an amorous pilgrimage: in the first place, because they had an old duenna sitting at the fore part of the cart, and also because at the moment our carriages were passing one another, they suffered themselves to be looked at with a freedom equal to the curiosity with which they gazed upon us. They even lifted up entirely the curtain in the front of their carriage; and as married women would never dare to allow themselves such liberties, I am the more strongly confirmed in my opinion.

The gate by which we went out of *Pe-king* is exactly similar to that by which we entered it on the south side, on the 10th of this month. It is surmounted by an edifice, and protected by a bastion on the outer side.

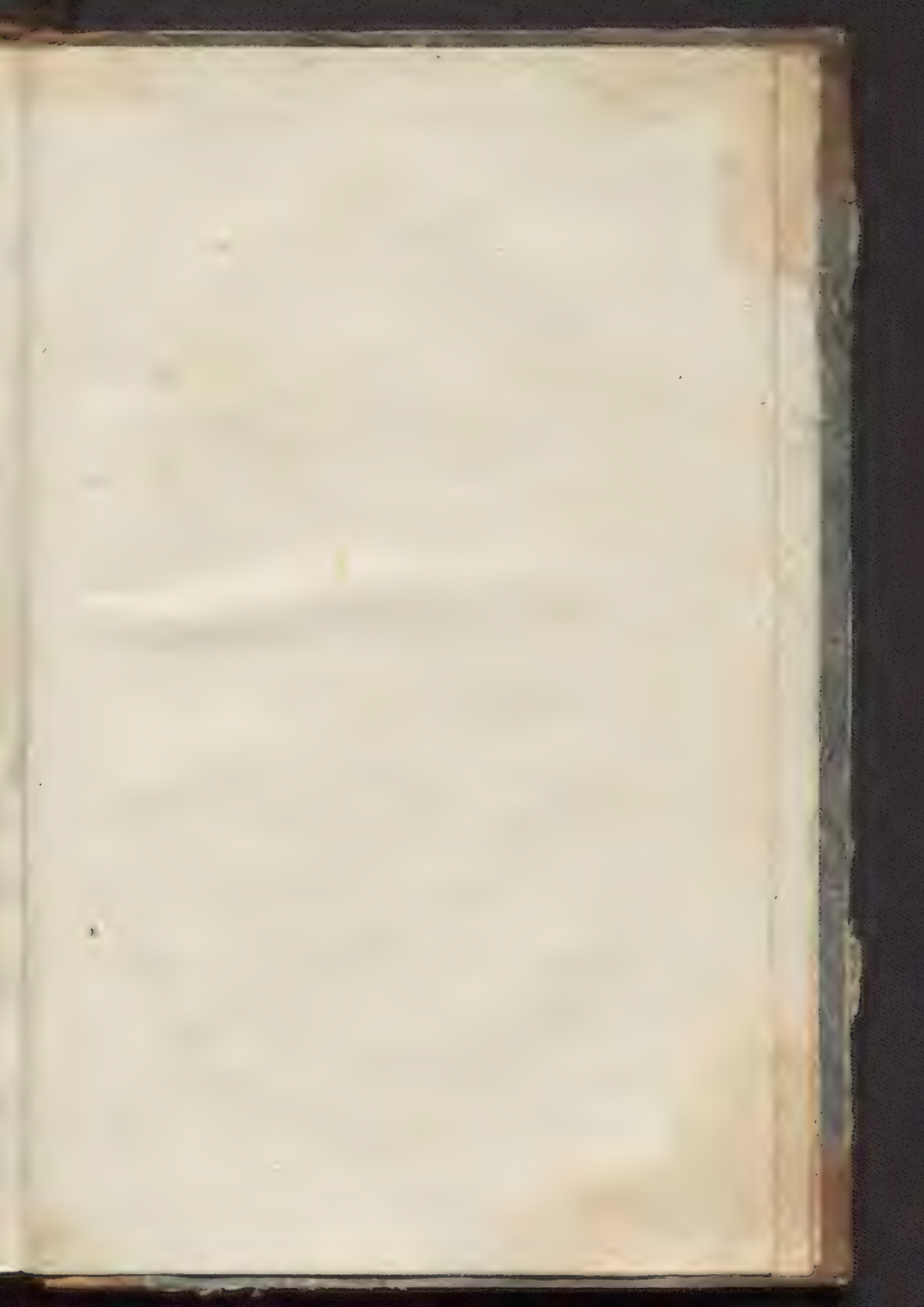
In the last street before we came to the gate of the city, we crossed a very wide bridge of a single arch, with a stone balustrade on each side; this bridge inclines me to suppose that a canal or stream of water runs through the city.

There were a great many windings in the road without *Pe-king*, but in general it takes a north-west direction. The middle is paved with hewn stones like that by which we entered the city

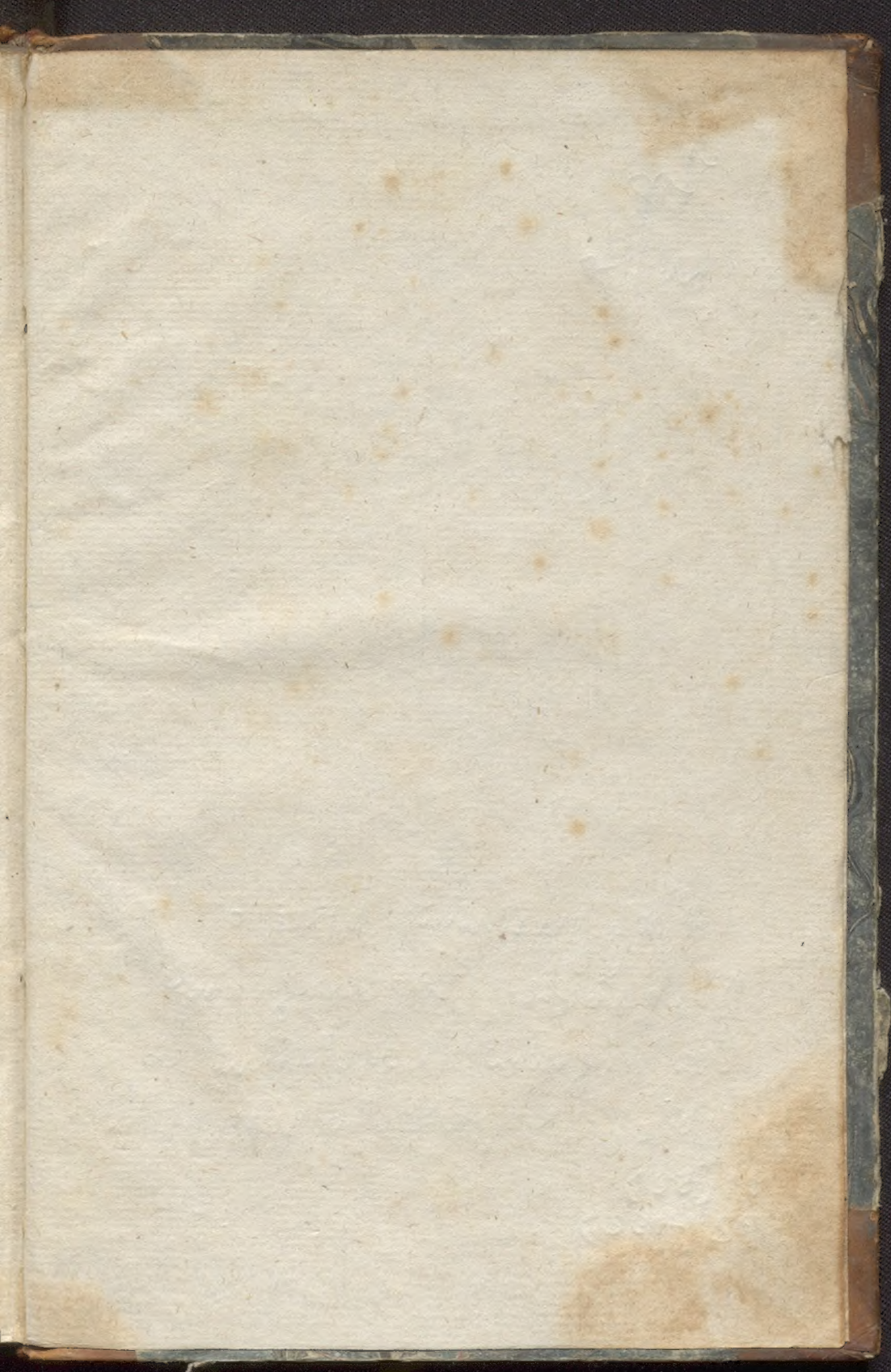
on the 9th of the present month. There are also trees on each side; and we met with habitations and villages at small distances from one another.

We had been going for fifty minutes at a full trot, when we stopped at a place called *Uoitime*, situated at ten *li* from *Yuen-ming-yuen*. A very good and tolerably spacious lodging had been prepared for us there. We took possession of it, and shortly afterwards our baggage arrived.

Our conductor informed us upon our first leaving the city, that his Excellency and I must be ready to-morrow morning at an early hour to go and breakfast at court, and congratulate the Emperor upon his arrival in the country. It appears then that we shall be no more exempt here than at *Pe-kin*, from those ceremonies which precede the dawn of day.



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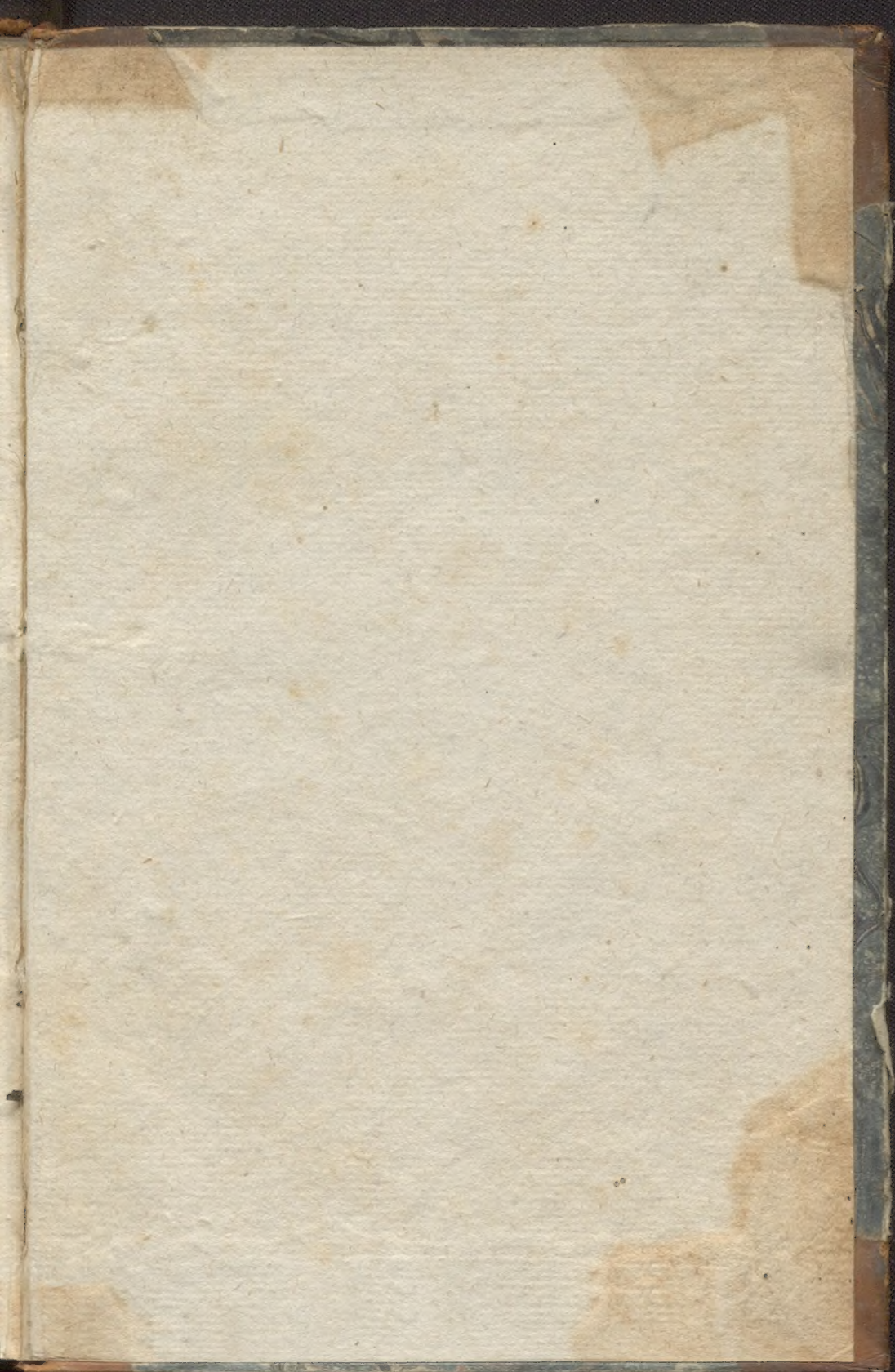


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Пограничный очерк о
поселении Волчанского
ок. Унгенов колонии на
гору Купальского монастыря

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Крыз №260
Vol. I

17260